



Arm Knitting

30 no-needle projects for you and your home

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Introduction

Arm knitting – it's exactly what it sounds like. Instead of working with knitting needles, you knit on your arms. If you don't know how to knit, this is the perfect way to get acquainted with the craft. That's because it's easier than learning to manage cumbersome needles, but you still create the same stitches. If you're new to arm knitting, be warned: it's incredibly addictive – and fun for everyone.

Four reasons to arm knit

It's fast

Traditional knitting involves multiple stitches and different sizes of needles, but in arm knitting, your arms are like giant needles, and you typically use multiple strands of really thick yarn held together. Pairing big 'needles' and big yarns means you can create a lot of knitting with just one row. You'll be amazed at how quickly you can knit scarves, home décor, and many other objects.

It's easy


You don't need to have any previous knitting experience to arm knit. In fact, you can get away with learning just a single stitch: knit stitch. You can make many of the projects in this book with just that technique. If you become addicted – and you will – then you can try other stitches, such as purling, cabling, and yarnover.

It's fun

Arm knitting is enjoyable because you can almost effortlessly make a project in less than an hour, but it's also fun because you can experiment with many different fibres and stitches. You'll love choosing yarns and then seeing how they work up when you use a different number of strands. Success with arm knitting might even inspire you to design your own projects!

It's beautiful

Arm knitting is a great way to show off stunning chunky yarns. Because the stitches are large, they perfectly set off interesting textures. Your arm knitted accessories will look like they've been plucked right off the catwalk, while your arm knitted home décor will look cosy and stylish.



Arm knitting is something you'll definitely want to share with friends, discussing ideas and techniques, as well as knitting together. And because you can do this almost anywhere, it's perfect for socializing.







Materials, tools, and techniques

Arm knitting doesn't require much more than yarns in your favourite colours and, of course, your arms. The basic techniques described in this section will get you started on this new journey.

Yarns

Learning about the yarns that will work best for arm knitting will make this activity enjoyable. You'll have a chance to work with yarns of varying weights, including heavier yarns that are hard to use with needles, but are ideal for arms.

Fibres

The fibre you choose for a project depends on a couple of different factors.

If you're arm knitting an item that needs frequent laundering, choose a superwash wool, or a washable cotton or acrylic. If you're on a budget, choose a low-cost synthetic yarn, so you can get more bulk at a lower price.



Animal fibre

Animal fibre can include anything from wool to alpaca to mohair. Animal fibre is perfect for winter accessories and garments. While such fibres are warm and luxurious, remember to diligently follow the care instructions.

You should wash most animal fibres in cold water and by hand. Otherwise, the fibres will felt together and ruin your beautiful stitches. If you want an animal fibre that's easier to care for, look for the word *superwash* on the label.



Plant fibre

Plant fibres include cotton, linen, and bamboo yarns. Because these fibres are strong and ideal for warmer temperatures, consider using them for such projects as home décor and summer accessories. Plant fibres also make good yarn substitutions for arm knitters who have an allergy to animal fibres.



Synthetic fibres and blends

Synthetic fibres, such as acrylic and nylon, are generally the easiest to care for. Synthetic yarn is a good choice if you're looking for a specific property. For example, if you want your project to have some elasticity, then a synthetic yarn with nylon in it is a good choice.

Synthetic yarns are also more budget-friendly. Novelty yarns, such as ribbon yarn, are slippery and can be difficult to work with, so gain some experience before arm knitting projects that use these fibres.

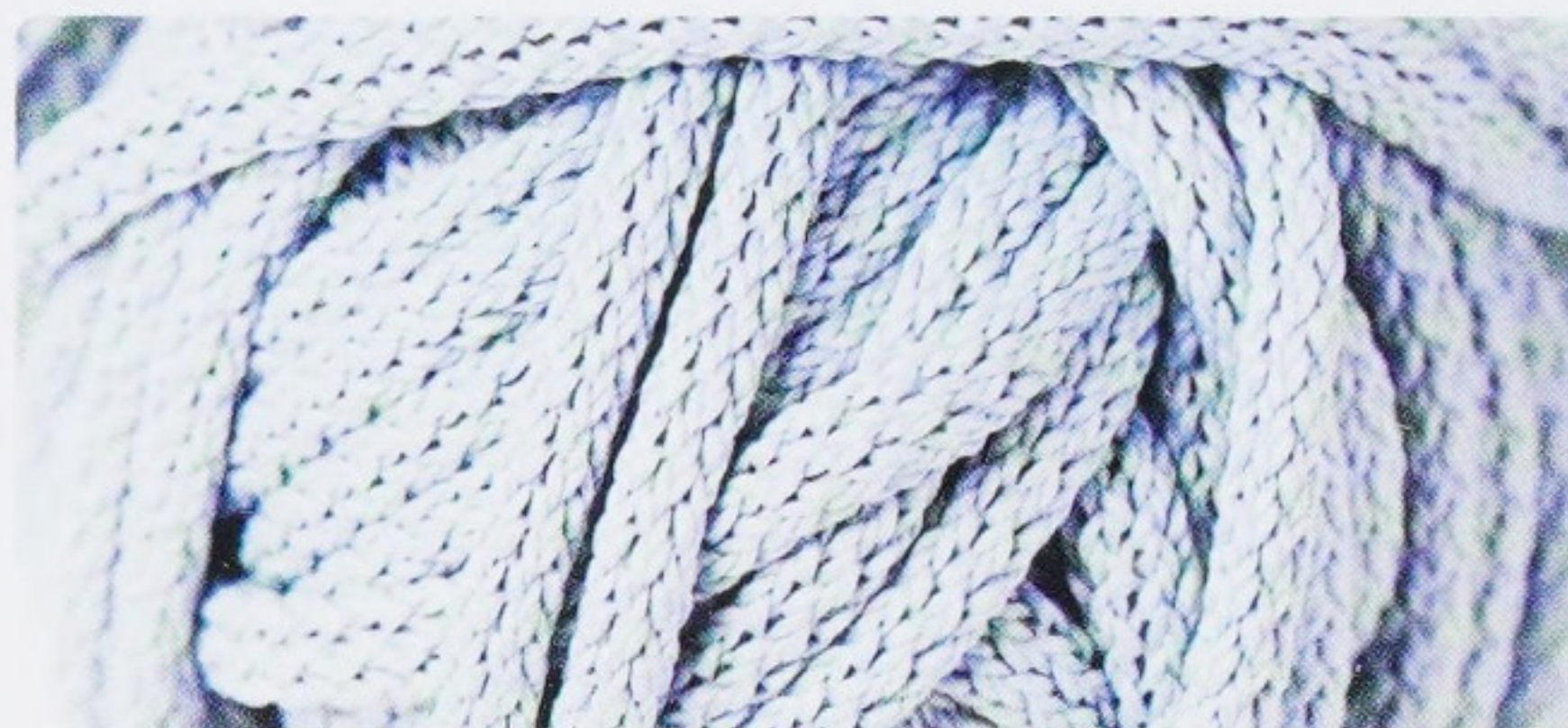
Unusual yarns

Several projects in this book give you a chance to arm knit with other kinds of yarns. Experiment with these materials, especially with projects that don't take long to make.



T-shirt yarn

T-shirt yarn is a stretchy material that's made from cotton, or a cotton blend. You can purchase T-shirt yarn online or from specialist knitting shops, or you can make your own T-shirt yarn at home by using jersey knit fabric from a haberdashery store, or using a T-shirt (or several) you no longer want. Do-it-yourself T-shirt yarn is a great choice for budget-conscious arm knitters.



Rope

Rope may seem like an unlikely candidate for arm knitting. However, thanks to its thickness and durability, it's a great choice for projects, particularly home décor. You can use any type of rope you'd like, but the most common rope fibres are cotton and synthetics, such as nylon.



Wool roving

Wool roving is a bulky fibre that's fuzzy and lofty. Because roving isn't plied, it doesn't have a twist to join the fibres like most yarns. You can buy it in knitting or craft shops, and online, packaged like other types of yarn, or in bags. You can also purchase roving in its natural state (often used for felting). You can separate roving by gently pulling the fibres apart to create a tapered edge that's easier to weave in. If the roving is difficult to pull apart, try holding your hands farther apart when you pull.

Packaging

Yarn is packaged in different types of bundles. If you purchase your yarn as a ball, skein, hank, or donut, no prep work is necessary before knitting. Some projects in this book will give you specific instructions about how to prepare your yarn for arm knitting.

Tools

Arm knitting doesn't require much more than your arms. Every pattern for the projects in this book lists any special tools needed. Collect all the tools and materials listed for a project before starting to knit, so you don't have to interrupt your work and figure out what to do with the stitches on your arms.

Essentials

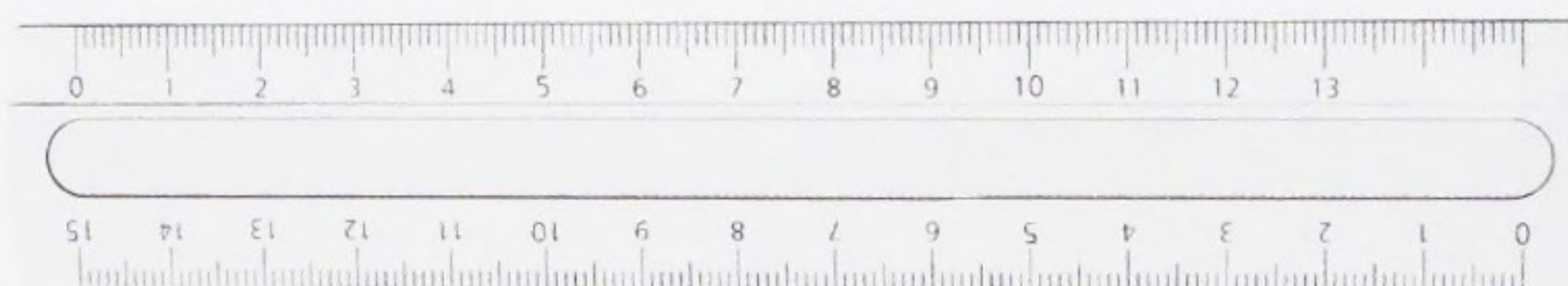
Because this is arm knitting, you don't need knitting needles. But you'll always need scissors to trim yarn, and a ruler or tape measure.

Rulers

For all projects, you'll need to do some measuring. A quilting ruler lets you trim fringing to uniform lengths, while you'll find a short ruler and tape measure useful for measuring the length of work in progress and for checking tension.



Quilting ruler



Short ruler

Keep a Tool Kit Handy

Store all your arm knitting tools together in a bag or case so they're readily available when you begin an arm knitting project. If you have experience with conventional knitting and already own tools you like to use for any specific technique, feel free to use them for arm knitting if they're useful. And pop them in your arm knitting kit for future use.



Fabric scissors

Scissors

Any size scissors will do for cutting yarn. Only use your scissors to cut yarn and fabric, and have them sharpened regularly. Scissors used on paper become dull and will cut yarn or fabric in a ragged fashion.

Useful extras

Some projects, like those made from wool roving or those with seams, may require additional tools, but they're not necessary for all the patterns.

Stitch markers

If you're familiar with stitch markers for conventional knitting, note that you won't use them in the same way for arm knitting. Locking stitch markers can hold two pieces of knitted fabric that you need to seam together. You can also lock a marker around strands as a reminder to weave in the ends in that spot. Pipe cleaners or scrap yarn wrapped around strands can serve the same purpose.

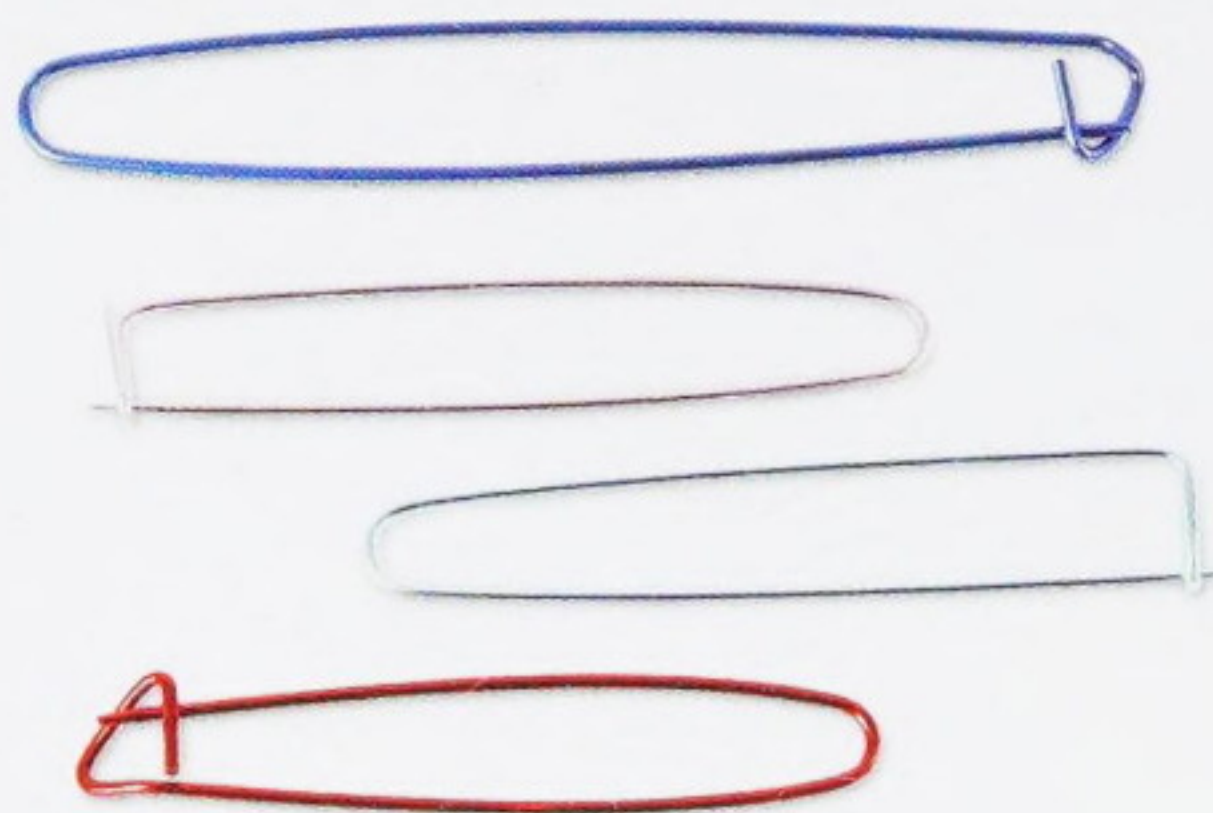
Coloured stitch markers



Stitch holders

Stitch holders come in a variety of lengths. Use one to secure your work if you stop in the middle of a project; just open the holder, slip the stitches off your arm and onto it, and close it. If you don't have any, just slide your arm knitting onto a broom handle, piece of dowel, or a buckled belt.

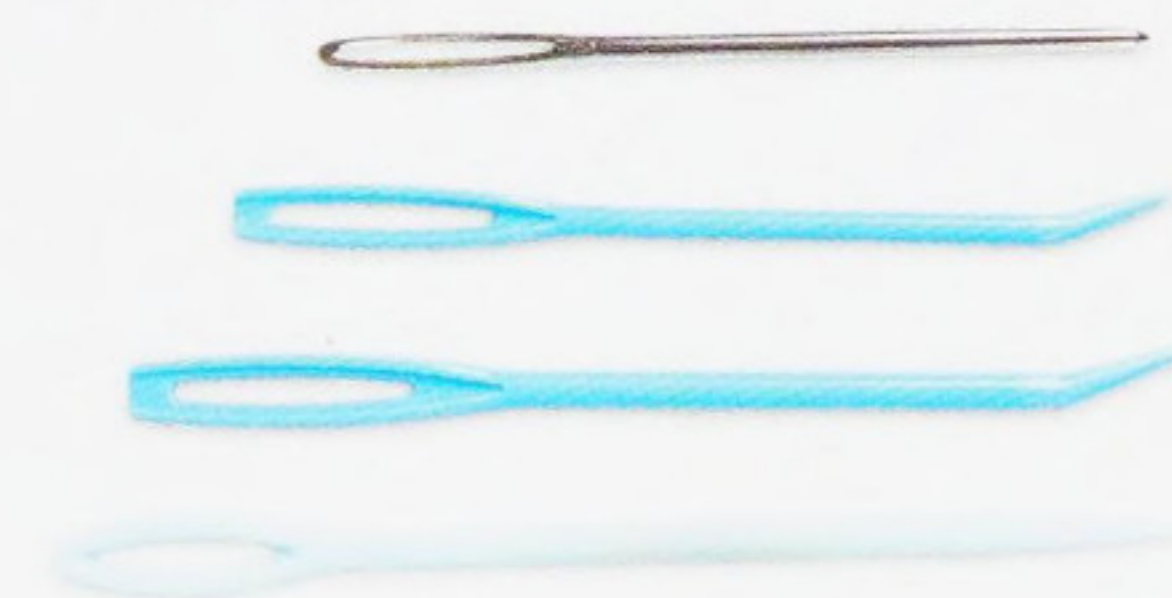
Stitch holders in different sizes



Tapestry needles

These heavy, blunt needles each have a large eye for threading thick yarns. They're useful for seaming pieces of arm knitting together. You can also use them to weave in loose ends. They're optional – you can use your fingers to seam or weave instead – but it can make some tasks easier.

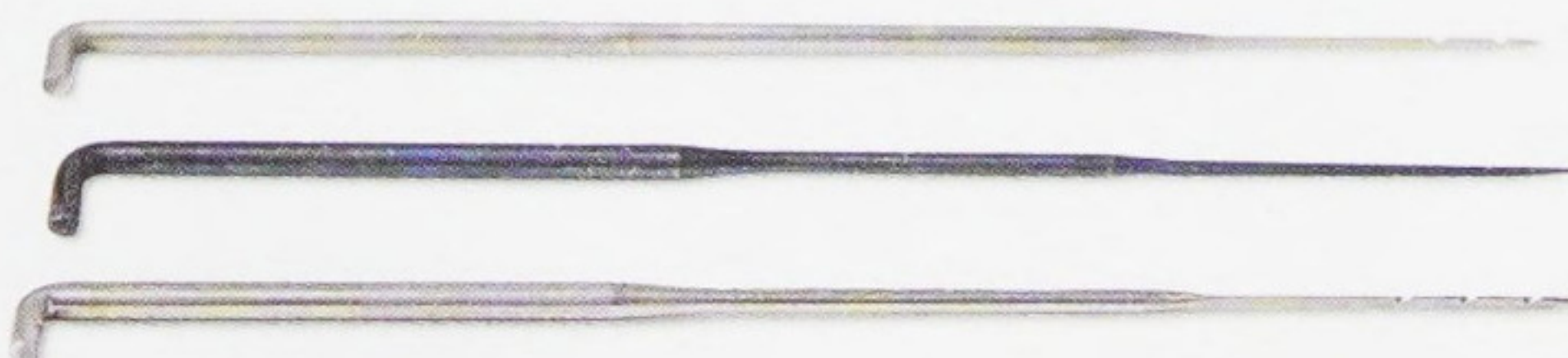
Tapestry needles



Felting needles

These very sharp needles have barbed surfaces that compress wool fibres together to join them. You'll use these needles to secure cast-on and cast-off tails of wool roving to knitted work, or to join balls of wool roving.

Felting needles



Pinking shears

Pinking shears

These scissors produce a zigzag cut on fabric, which prevents unravelling. In this book, you'll only need them for projects that have a fabric lining.

Yarn weight chart

Yarn labels usually give information about thickness and weight. Many include a yarn symbol with a number on it. You should match your yarn weight to the specific weight listed for your project.

	Lace 2-ply, Fingering
	Superfine 3-ply, Fingering, Sock, Baby
	Fine 4-ply, Sport, Baby
	Light Double Knit (DK), Light Worsted
	Medium Worsted, Afghan, Aran
	Chunky Bulky, Craft, Rug
	Super chunky Super Bulky, Wool Roving
	Wool roving Jumbo, Giant

Yarn tension and weight

Yarn tension is the number of stitches and rows of knitting to a given measurement, often over a 10cm (4in) square. Your knitting must match the tension listed for each project to ensure you make the right size. This is easy with a ruler.

Understanding tension

Tension depends on three things: the diameter of the knitter's arms, the thickness of your yarn, and the number of strands held together. To control the finished size, you need to understand how to make adjustments. You don't generally need to worry too much about tension for something like a scarf or a necklace. However, it's critical for garments, where size is important to get the right fit.

The thickness of each yarn strand, as well as how many strands you hold together will also play a role in determining the tension. The thicker the yarn and the more strands of yarn you use, the fuller

the arm knitting will be. For example, a project that uses 4 strands of super chunky yarn needs 8 strands of chunky yarn to achieve the same tension.

Check your tension

The diameter of every knitter's arms is different, so every knitter's stitches will be different. Each pattern states the number of stitches and rows per 10cm (4in) square. If your tension is larger than this, your finished project will be larger than the measurements given. If your tension is smaller, your finished project will be smaller than the measurements given. You may have to make adjustments to get the right size.

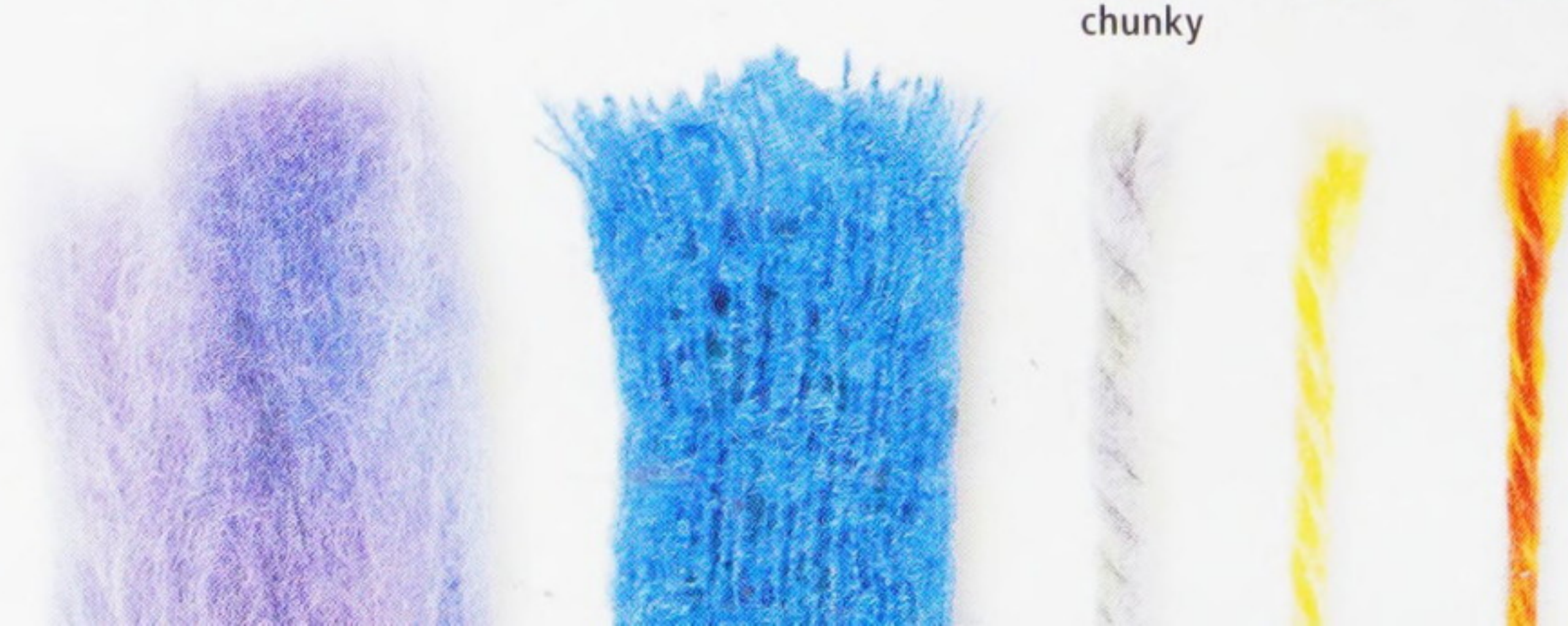
Wool roving

Giant

Super chunky

Chunky

Aran



Creating and using a tension swatch

Always create a tension swatch before knitting up your project to measure your tension with the yarn you selected and determine how to make modifications.



1 Cast on 6 stitches. Arm knit about 6 rows in the stitch the pattern uses. For example, if your project uses knit stitch, then knit each row. Cast off all the stitches.



2 Place a ruler across the width of the swatch and then count the number of stitches for 10cm (4in). It's best to measure near the centre of the swatch to find the most accurate measurement.



3 Along the length of the swatch, count the number of rows in 10cm (4in). Compare your tension to the one listed in the project you want to make. Too many stitches and rows? Knit a new swatch with one less strand of yarn and measure the tension again. Too few stitches? Add a strand. Adjust until your tension matches.

Adjusting stitch size

You can't change the size of your arms, but one trick can adjust your tension: knitting stitches that are either looser or tighter. If you have too few rows or stitches, tighten the stitches on your arms as you knit. The smaller stitches this creates result in a smaller tension. If you have too many rows or stitches, do the opposite: loosen the stitches as you knit, giving the loops a little more wiggle room on your arm and making each stitch bigger.

Substituting yarn

You might sometimes need or want to use a different yarn to the one a project calls for. Knowing how to substitute yarn will help you select the appropriate replacement fibre.

Same weight, different yarn

Every project in this book lists the specific materials used, so you can replicate it exactly. You'll find this information at the very bottom of the 'Essential information' column. Each project also offers generic information so you can substitute the yarns you want. It's simplest to substitute a yarn in the same weight category as the designer's yarn. For example, if a project uses a super chunky yarn and you also use a super chunky yarn, you likely won't have to adjust your tension.

Different yarn weights

If you want to use a yarn in a different weight category, all you need to do is alter the number of strands. For example, if the project uses 4 strands of super chunky yarn, it might require 10 strands of a lighter chunky yarn. For this kind of substitution, you'll definitely need to make a swatch to check your tension. The more strands you add to your project, the thicker the stitches will be and the bigger your tension; if you use fewer strands, then the project will feel and look lighter and have a smaller tension.



12 strands of chunky yarn



8 strands of chunky yarn



5 strands of super chunky yarn





10 strands of
chunky yarn

Adding loft to yarn

Some fibres, such as alpaca and mohair, have beautiful airy thicknesses that are perfect for soft, dreamy projects. Give a yarn that's not fuzzy some texture by gently untwisting several of the strands. This gives the fibre a thicker loft without substituting the yarn.



6 strands
of super
chunky yarn



4 strands
of super
chunky yarn

When substituting yarn, always knit up a tension swatch before you begin working on the actual project to make sure the tension of the new yarn matches the tension of the pattern.

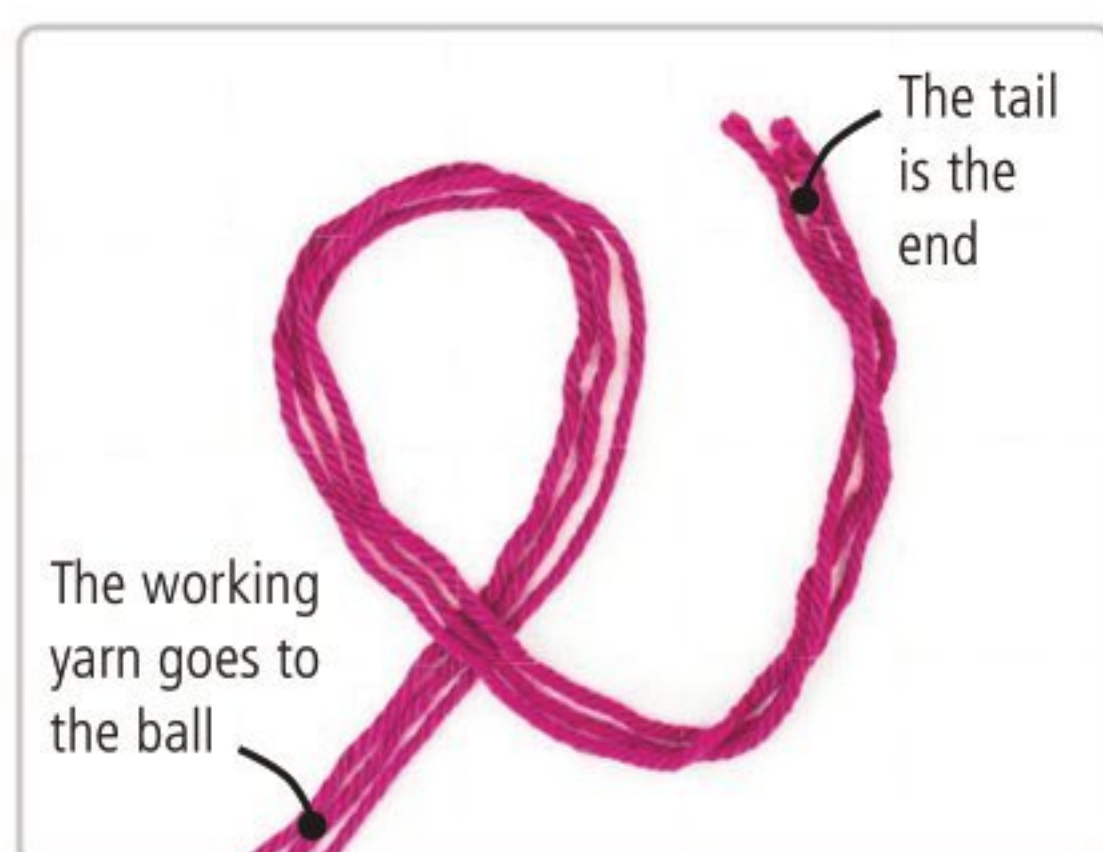
These swatches have the same number of stitches and rows but different weights and strands. They're the same finished size and so have the same tension.

Starting techniques

Every arm knitting project begins with a slipknot and cast-on stitches. But before you start any project, gather all the materials and tools for it, and read the instructions completely through to familiarize yourself with all its techniques.

Making a slipknot

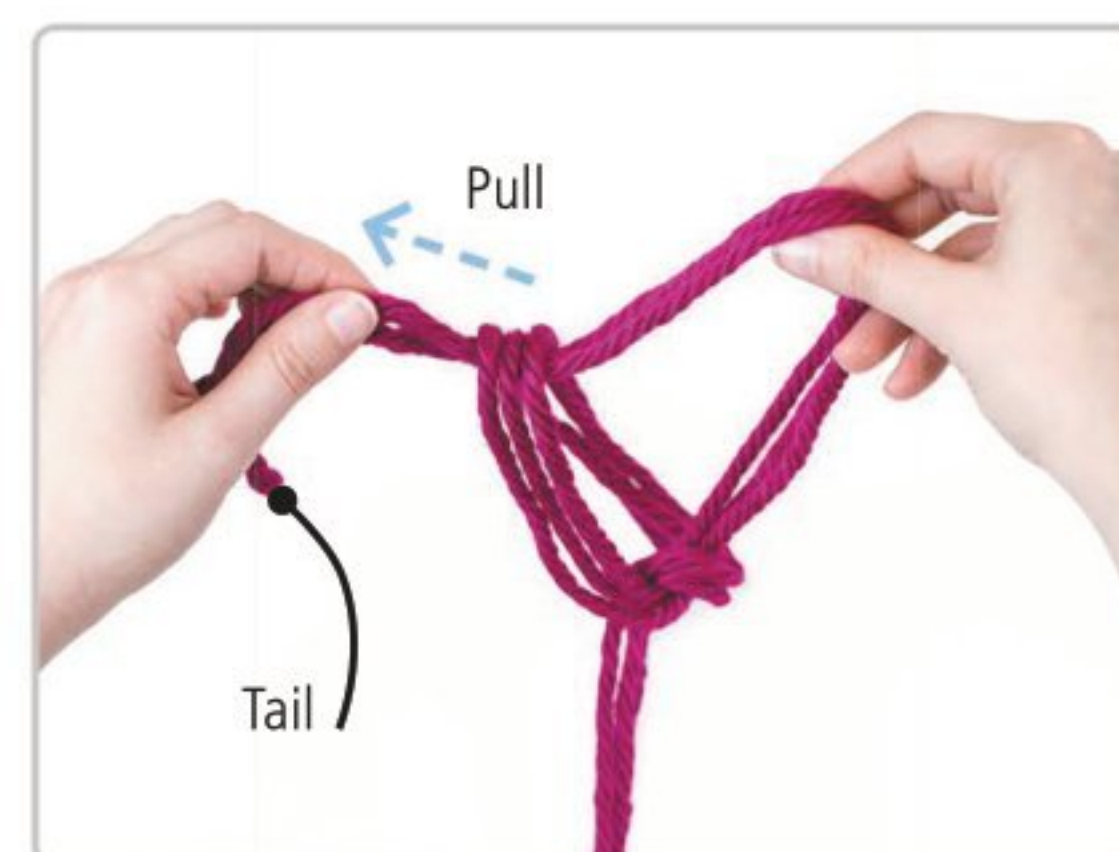
Creating a slipknot is how you'll start any arm knitting project. A slipknot secures the knitting to your arm, and it's also your first cast-on stitch.



1 Leaving a long tail for casting on (about $1\frac{1}{4}$ yards [1.2m] for every 10 stitches), cross the tail over the working yarn to create a circle.



2 Place the tail under the circle, extending it across the center.



3 Hold the yarn tail with one hand and pull it taut, creating a loop at the center of the circle.



4 Place the loop on your right wrist, with the yarn tail in front facing you and the working yarn extending from the back.



5 Tighten the slipknot, but leave the loop on your wrist slightly loose. This counts as your first cast-on stitch.

Using Multiple Skeins and Strands

When knitting with several strands together, you might need to use several skeins. A scale that measures ounces is a great way to divide one skein into multiple equal balls. Divide the weight of the skein into the number of strands you need and then weigh the ball as you wind it.

Long-tail cast on

Once you've placed the slipknot—which serves as your first stitch—on your arm, you'll need to cast on additional stitches. Make sure the cast-on tail extends from the side of the wrist closest to you and the working yarn extends from the back.



1 Place the yarn tail behind your left thumb, and place the working yarn behind your left index finger. Spread your fingers apart to create a “slingshot” of yarn. Slide your right hand under the slingshot, entering from the side of your left thumb.



2 With your right hand, grab the working yarn that's wrapped around the front of your index finger.



3 Pull the loop through and onto your right hand.



4 Pull the working yarn and tail to tighten the loop, being careful to leave enough room to pull the loop off your hand when you begin stitching.



5 Repeat these steps to cast on the number of stitches required by the pattern, keeping in mind that your slipknot counts as the first cast-on stitch.

Stitches

The two foundation stitches of knitting are the knit stitch and the purl stitch. These two basic stitches can be combined to create different stitches and textures. For some projects, you'll only knit. For others, you might only purl or mix them up in various ways.

Knit stitch

Arm knitting's most basic stitch is the knit stitch. With this stitch, you can create practically any project in this book.



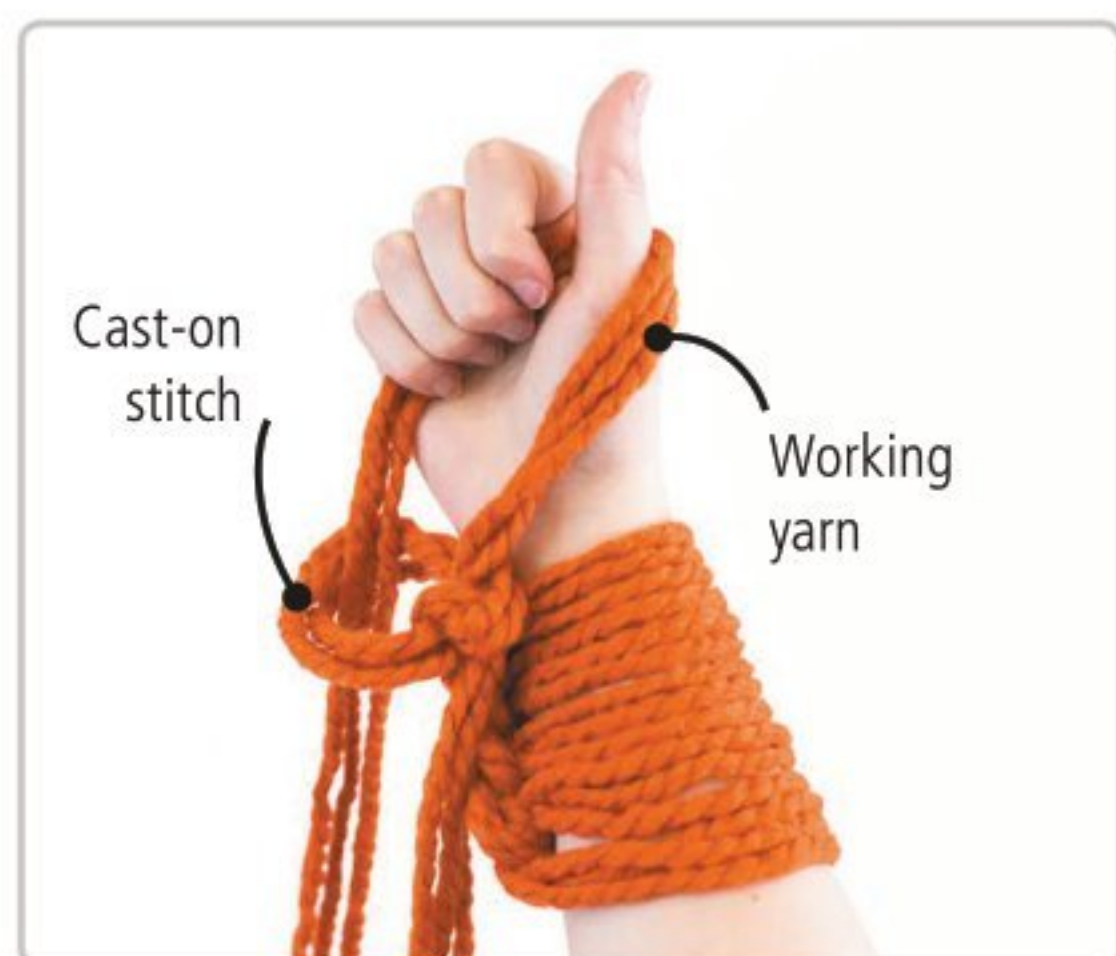
1 Cast on the number of stitches you need.



2 Place the working yarn over your right thumb from front to back, with the tail moving away from you, and close your fingers over the yarn.



3 Drop the cast-on stitch closest to the thumb off your arm and over your hand.



4 Drop the cast-on stitch while still grasping the working yarn.



5 Slide your left hand under the loop on your right hand.



6 Slide this loop onto your left wrist. This twists the loop so the working yarn is in front.



7 Pull taut on the working yarn to tighten the stitch around your left arm.



8 Repeat steps 2 through 7 until you've moved all the stitches from one arm to the other.

Carry on...

To knit the next row, repeat these steps, but this time, move the stitches from your left arm to your right arm. The rows of knitting will continue like this, moving back and forth from arm to arm. The right side of the work will always face you.

Front leg vs. back leg

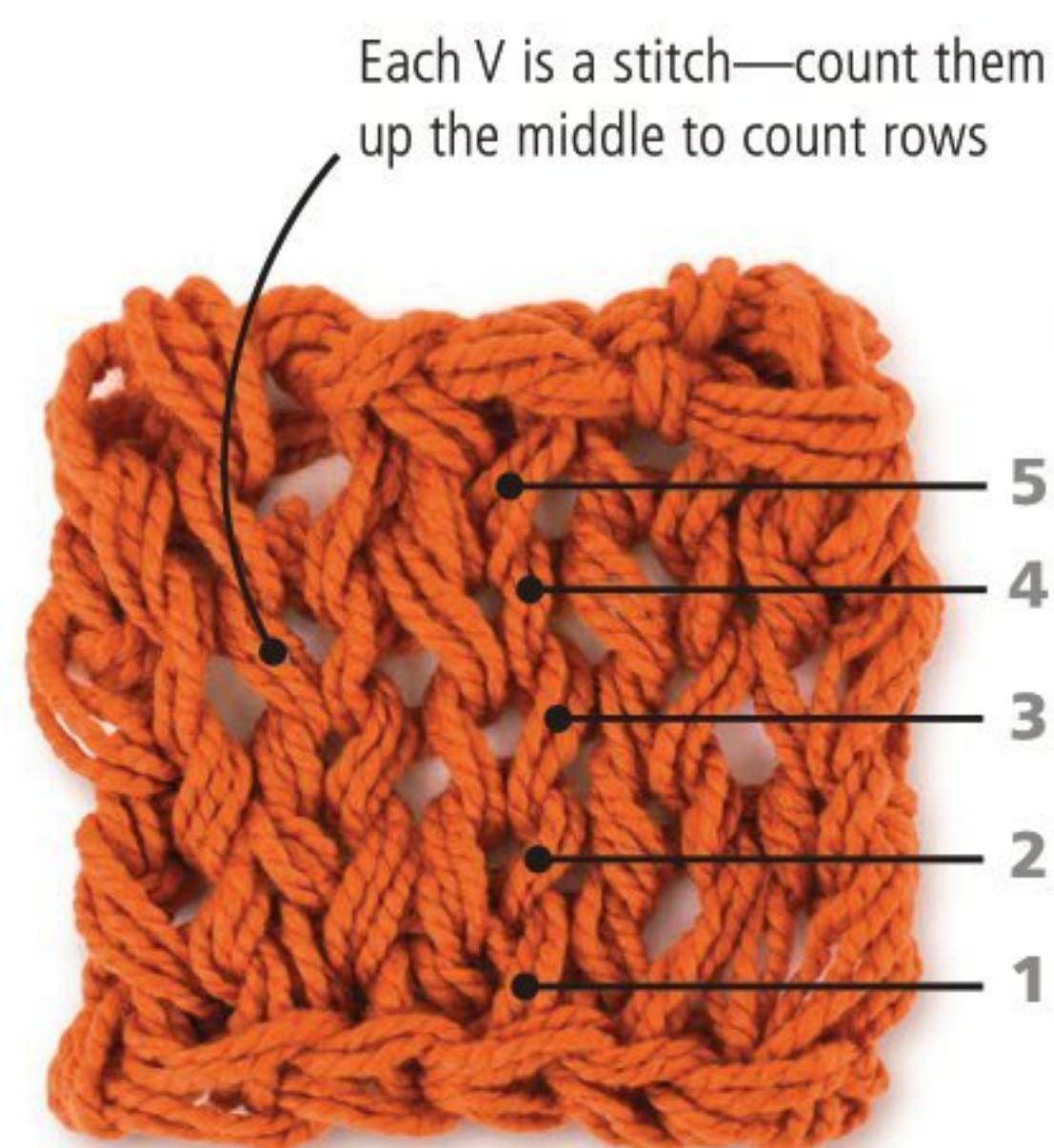
The side of the stitch that faces you is called the *front leg* of the stitch. When the knitted stitches are on your left arm, the right side of the loop will be the front leg. When the stitches are on your right arm, the left side of the loop should always be the front leg. If you reverse this, your knit stitches will create a twist at the bottom.



Stockinette stitch

When you're arm knitting, the right side of the work always faces you. If you knit every row, you'll knit what's

called a *stockinette stitch*. This creates a piece with V stitches on the right side and bumps on the wrong side.



Right side



Wrong side

Purl stitch

The purl stitch is the sister stitch to the knit stitch. Adding it to your repertoire opens up the opportunity for special stitches with interesting textures, like seed stitch and rib stitch. You should become as familiar with this stitch as with knit stitch.



1 Place the working yarn from front to back across your arm in the space between the first two stitches closest to your hand and then let go of the working yarn.



2 Reach through the first stitch, grabbing the working yarn with your left hand and pulling the working yarn through to create a new stitch.



3 Drop the old stitch off your right arm.



4 Place the new stitch onto your opposite arm.



5 Pull on the working yarn to tighten the loop.



6 Repeat steps 1 through 5 until you've moved all the stitches from one arm to the other.

Carry on...

To purl the next row, repeat these steps, but this time, move the stitches from your left arm to your right arm. Continue the rows of purling in this manner, moving back and forth from arm to arm, with the right side of the work always facing you.

tip

Always make sure the working yarn is extending from the front leg of the stitch. Otherwise, your stitches will twist.

Garter stitch

Once you learn the purl stitch, you can create the garter stitch. A garter stitch alternates knit and purl rows, creating a knitted piece with a different texture from the stockinette stitch you create by knitting all the rows.



Finishing

When you've finished arm knitting, you'll need to close the stitches and remove them from your arms so they don't unravel. After that, you'll also need to secure the ends by either weaving them in or needle felting them.

Binding off

Binding off closes the stitches so they don't come apart. It's similar to knitting, except you'll remove the stitches from your arm as you work across the row.



1 Work the first 2 stitches of the row in the same stitch you've been using in the project.



2 Grasp the stitch closest to your left elbow.



3 Pull that stitch over the stitch closest to your left hand and then pull it off your left arm.



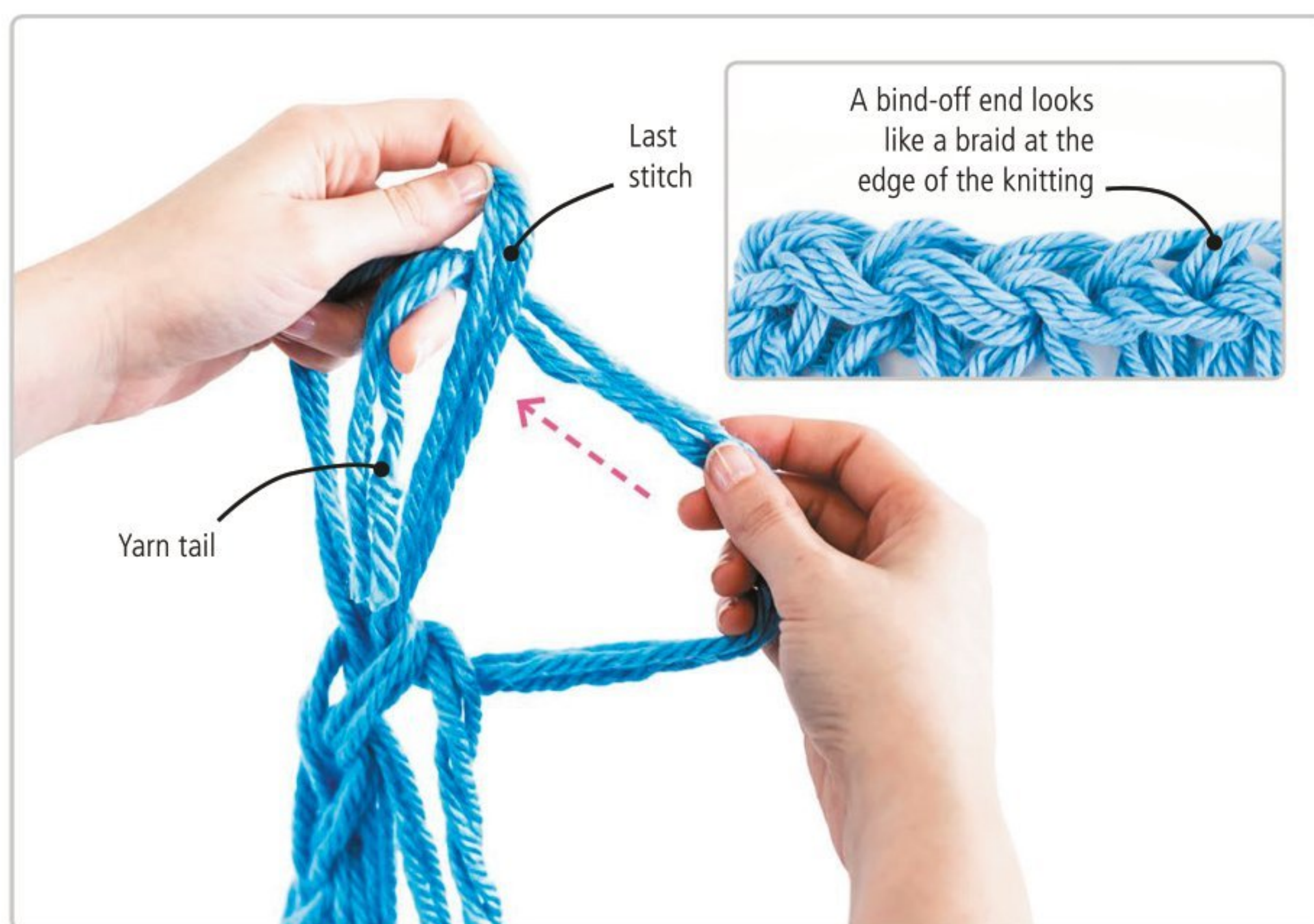
4 Drop the stitch. You should now have only 1 stitch remaining on your left arm.



5 Work another stitch on your right arm. You'll have 2 stitches on your arm.



6 Grasp the stitch closest to your left elbow and pull it over the stitch closest to your left hand and then pull it off your left arm. Keep repeating step 5 and this one until only 1 stitch remains on your left arm. Cut the working yarn, leaving a long tail for weaving.



7 Remove the stitch from your left wrist and then pull the yarn tail through the loop of the last stitch. Pull the yarn taut to secure it.

tip

Make sure the bind-off row matches the project's stitches. For example, if you knitted the project in seed stitch, then your bind-off row also needs to be in seed stitch.

Weaving in ends

You'll need to weave any tails—from casting on, binding off, or adding new yarns—into the project to hide and secure them. If you have a project with seams, use your cast-on or bind-off tail to seam first and then weave in the ends. If your project calls for multiple strands of yarn held together while knitting, weave them in as a single unit.



1 Working on the wrong side of the work, weave the tail (shown in orange) through the nearest stitch.



2 Following the shape of the adjacent stitches, weave the tail through the stitches.



3 Keep weaving until you've weaved in the entire tail and then tuck the end into one of the nearest stitches to secure it.

tip

You can thread a tapestry needle with a long tail to weave it in, but it's easier to use your hand.

Variation

Weave the yarn tail in and out of the bind-off edge, cast-on edge, or, if your project has one, through the seam where the work is tightest and most durable.



Needle felting roving

Roving benefits from a special finishing method to ensure the tail ends don't come loose. The technique of felting interlocks the roving fibers together. You can use it to join any yarn tails to the stitches near them so they'll permanently stay in place.

What you'll need

- Thick foam pad or needle felting mat
- Felting needle



1 Place the knitted piece right side down on a thick foam pad (or on a needle felting mat). Place the yarn tail (shown in blue) to be needle felted on top of adjacent stitches, allowing an overlap of about 3 inches (8cm).



2 Lightly pierce the felting needle straight up and down through both layers of roving, piercing about 1/4 inch (6mm) deep into the stitches.



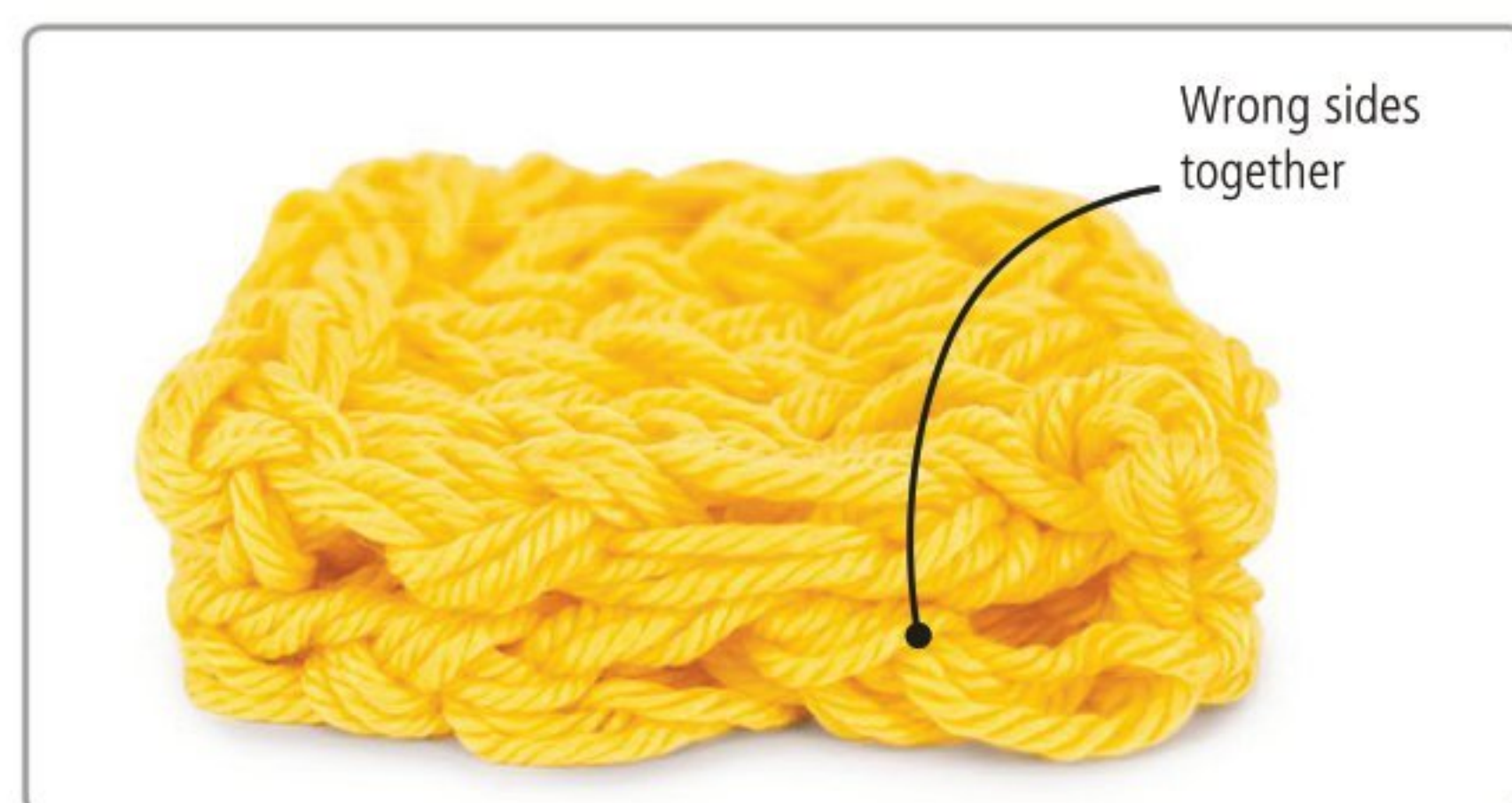
3 Continue to pierce the yarn tail with the needle until the tail is compressed firmly and securely into the stitches.

Seaming

Seaming is how you connect two pieces of arm knitting. There are two methods used in this book. The project instructions will tell you which to employ.

Whip stitch

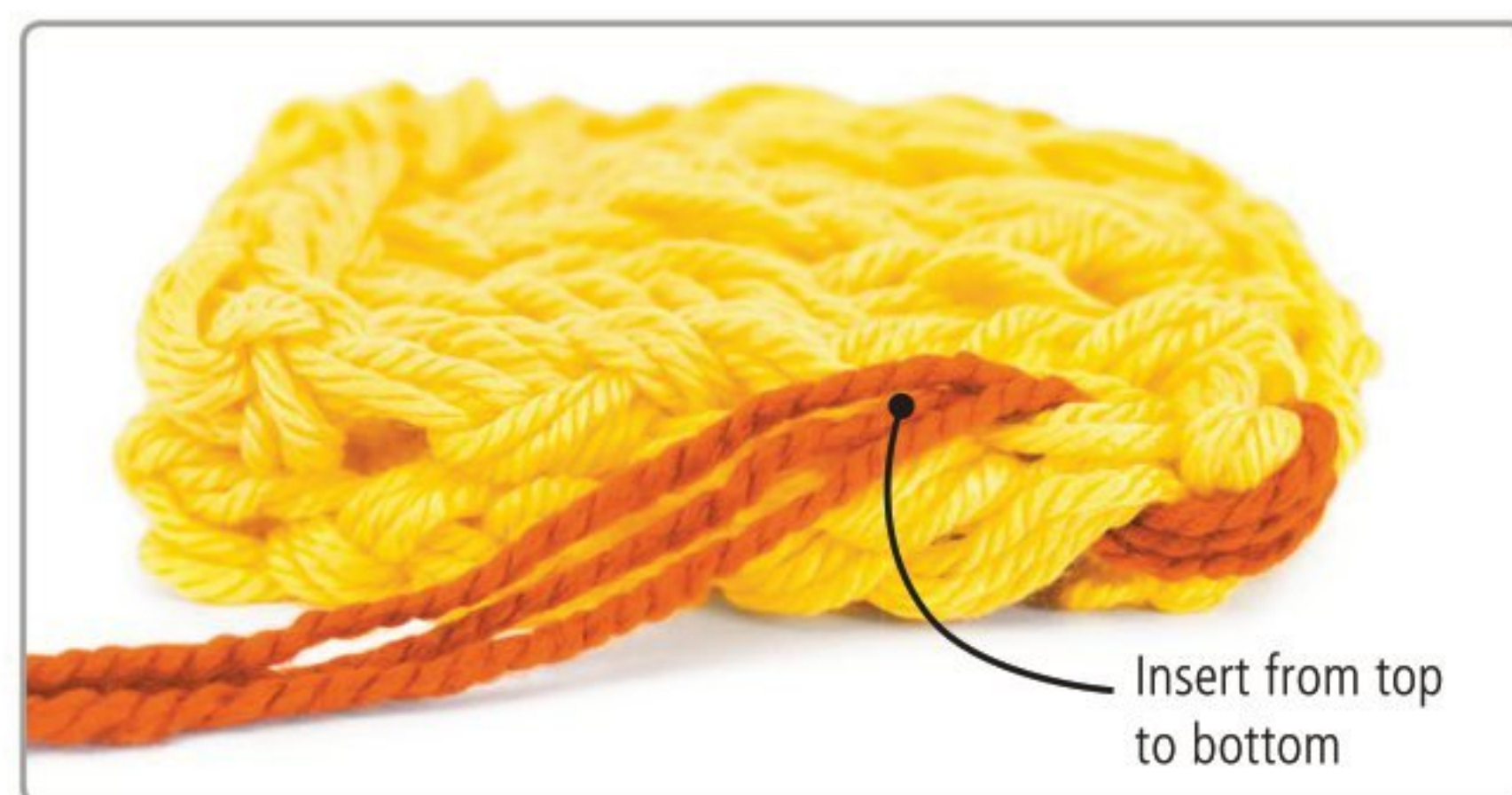
This seaming technique creates a stitch that's sturdy and functional but not stretchy. It's visible because it wraps around the edges of two pieces—even when using the same color yarn as the knitting—and it looks decorative when you use a different color.



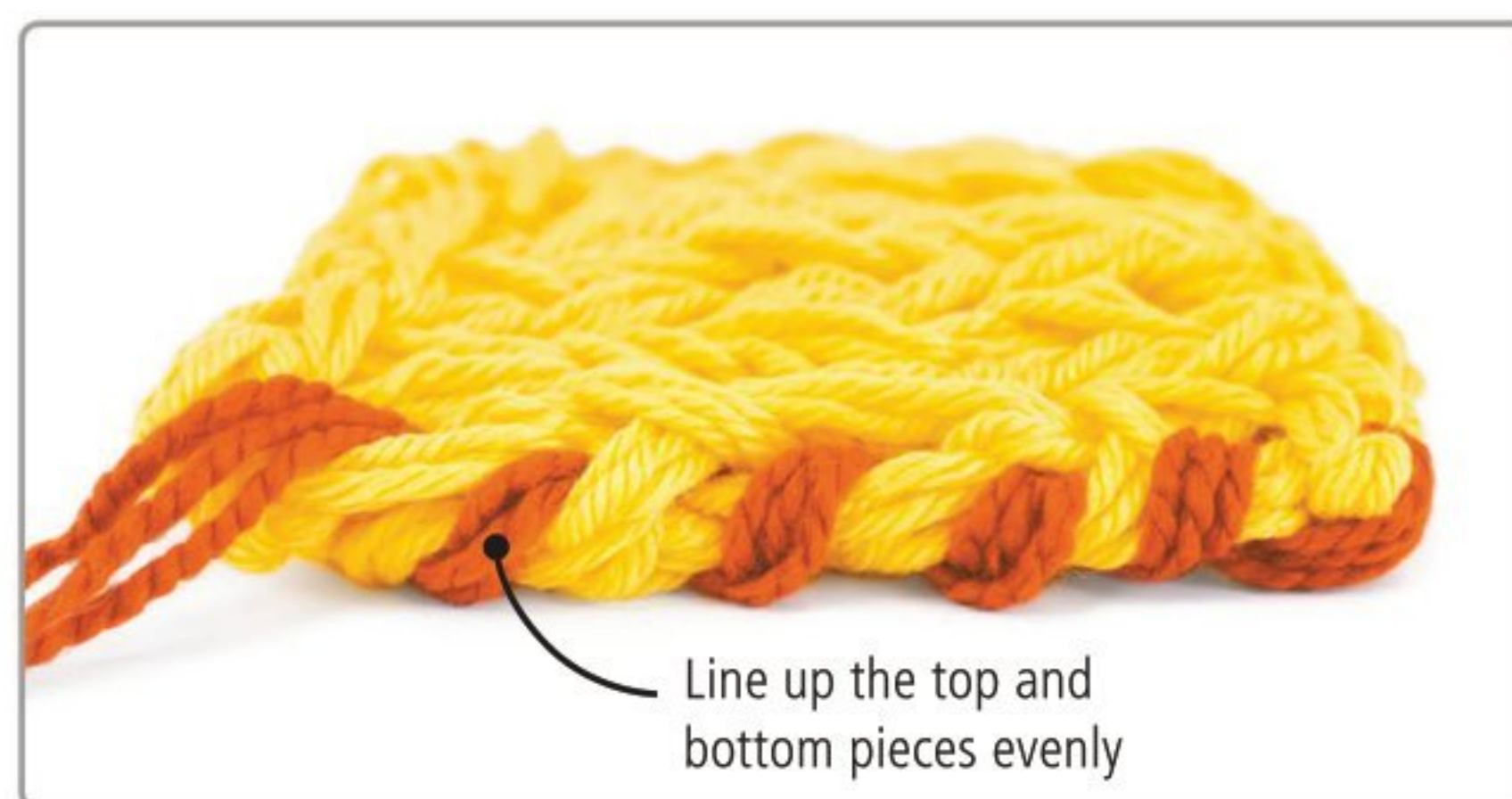
1 Place two knitted pieces on top of each other, with the wrong sides together and the edge stitches lined up evenly. The seaming yarn will be the tail of the bottom piece.



2 Insert the seaming yarn (shown in orange) from the bottom to the top through the bottom-right corner stitch of both pieces. (If you're using separate yarn rather than an existing tail, leave a long tail for weaving in later.)



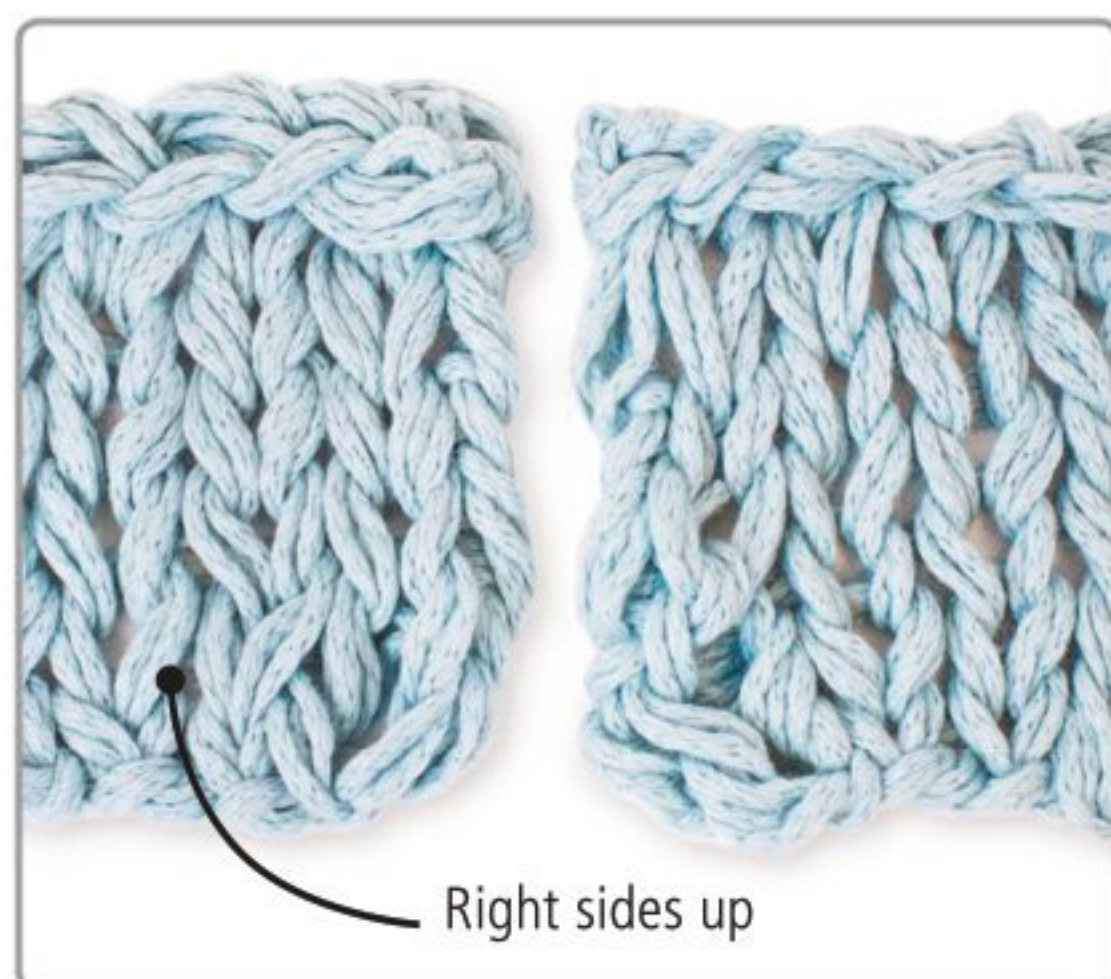
3 Insert the seaming yarn from the bottom to the top of the next set of stitches. The seaming yarn will wrap around the outside of the work.



4 Repeat step 3, working your way up the seam and lining up the stitches as evenly as possible, until you've seamed the entire edge.

Mattress stitch

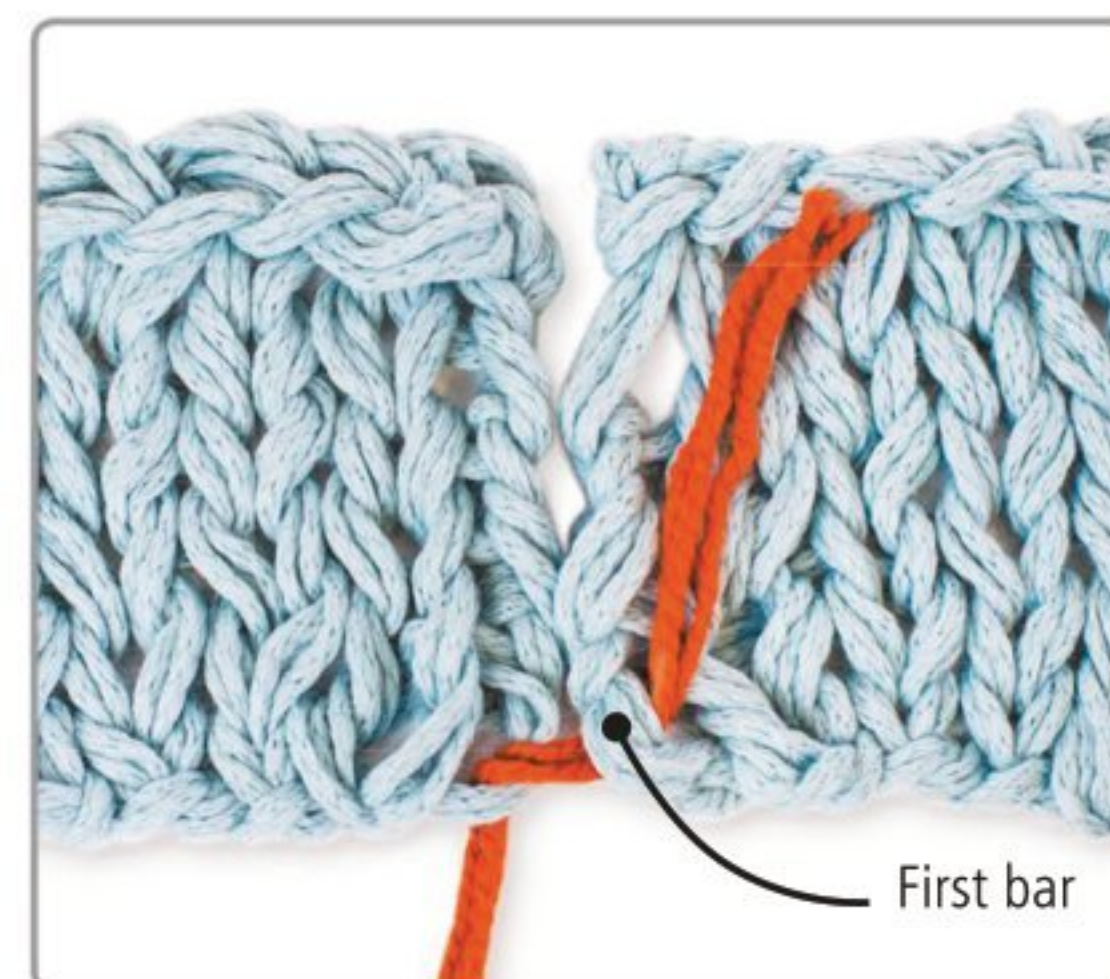
This stretchy stitch creates a barely visible seam on the right side of the work when you use the same color yarn as for the knitting. Take care to line up the pieces side by side.



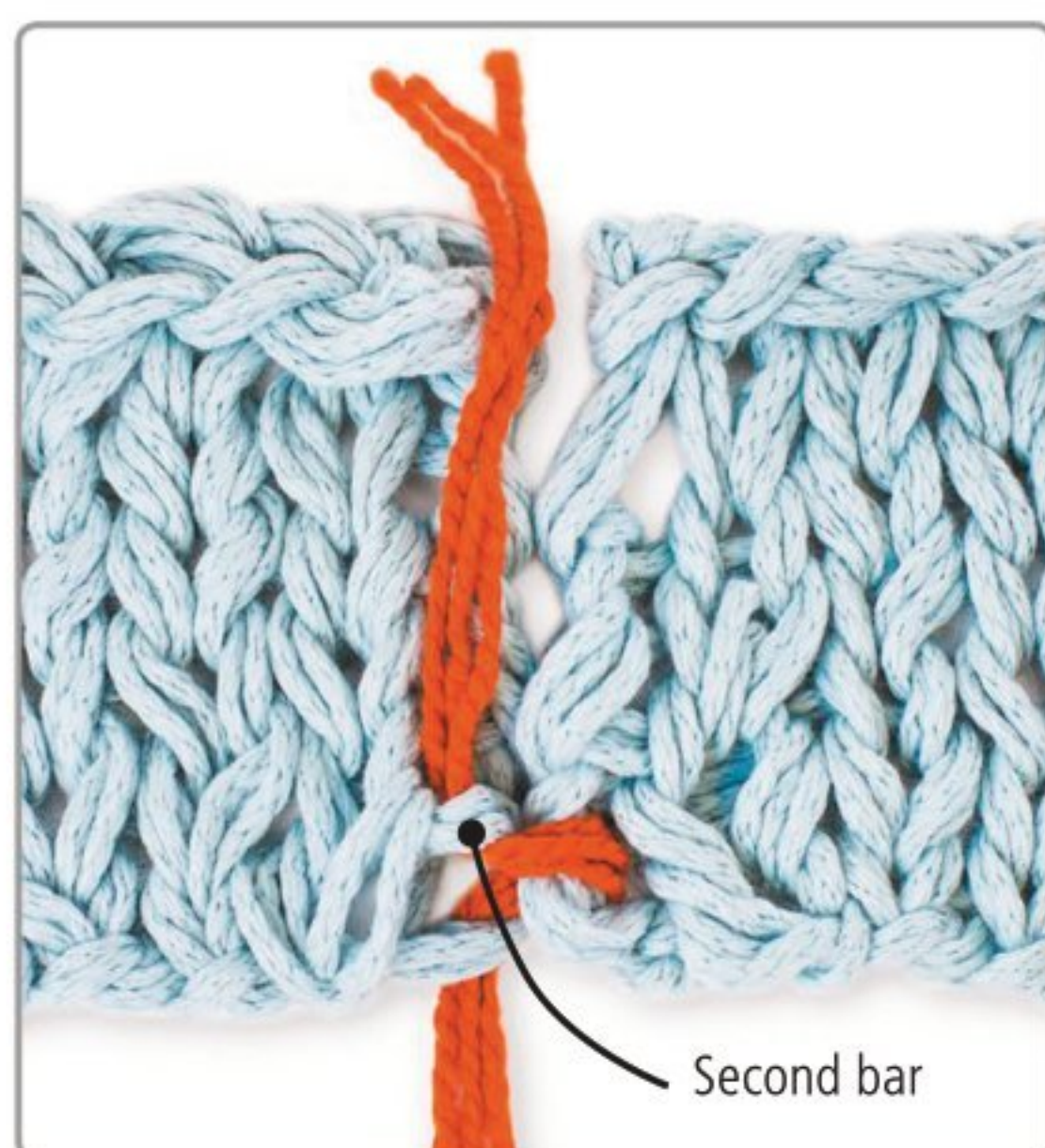
1 Place the two knitted pieces side by side, with the right sides up (unless the project instructions say to arrange them differently).



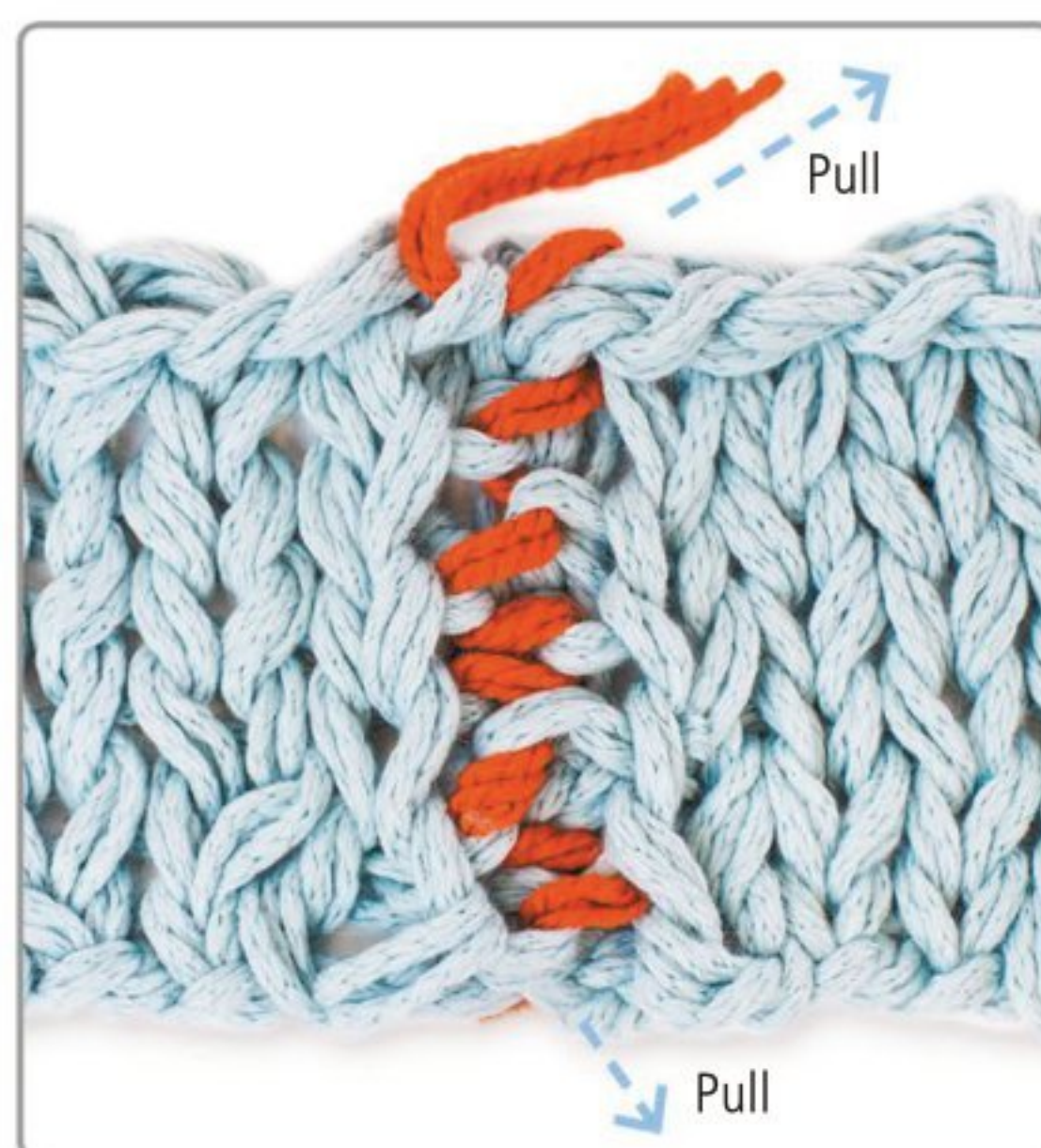
2 Stretch the side edges of both pieces to reveal the small “bars” that run side to side. Insert the seaming tail (shown in orange) under the first bar on the left piece.



3 Insert the seaming tail under the first bar on the right piece.



4 Insert the seaming tail under the second bar on the left piece.



5 Continue weaving the seaming tail under the next bar, moving from side to side. When you finish seaming the entire edge, pull on each end of the seam to hide the seaming yarn and then weave in any loose ends.

tip

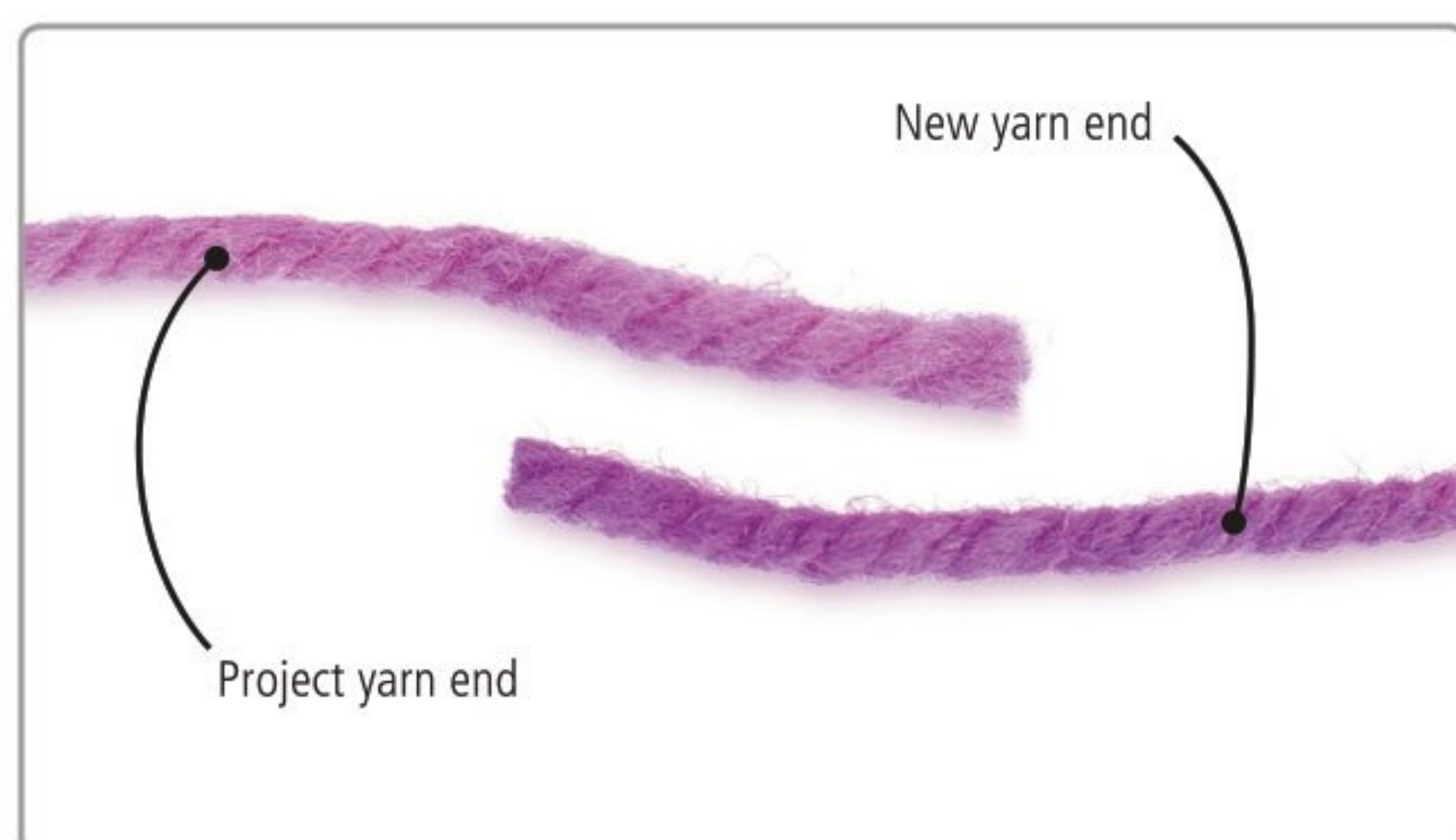
To avoid the hassle of weaving in lots of ends, leave longer tails when you cast on and bind off. Use those tails for seaming. This also makes the seams more secure because the seaming yarn is securely attached to one end of the work.

Adding more yarn

What do you do if you find that your ball has run out of yarn or that you'd like to change the color you're using to knit some rows in another shade? You can use the spit splice and changing colors techniques.

Spit splice

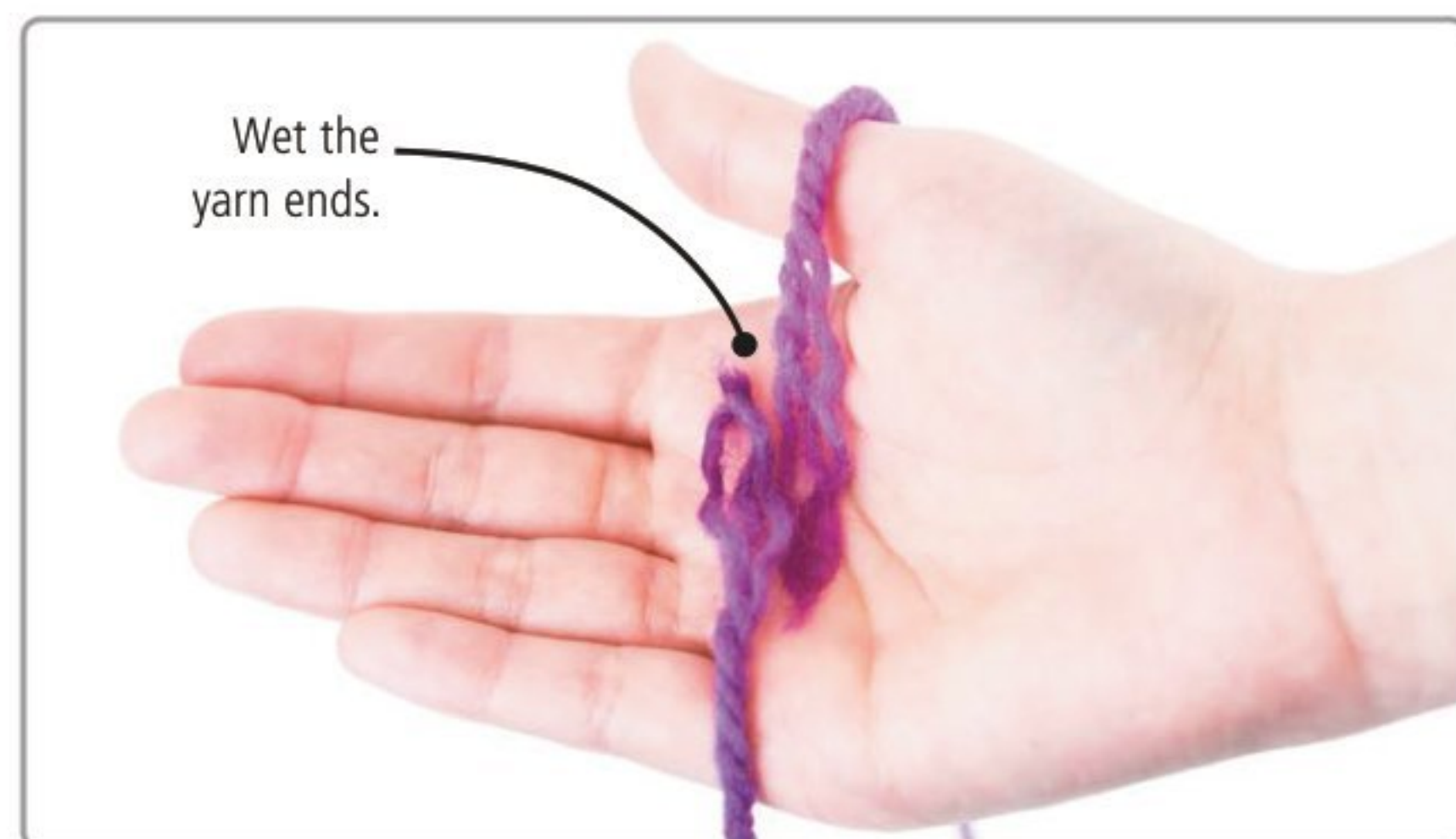
If you're knitting with 100% animal fibers, like 100% wool or alpaca, you can literally join both of the yarn ends into a single strand using a spit splice. Note that this technique works best for joining together yarns in the same color.



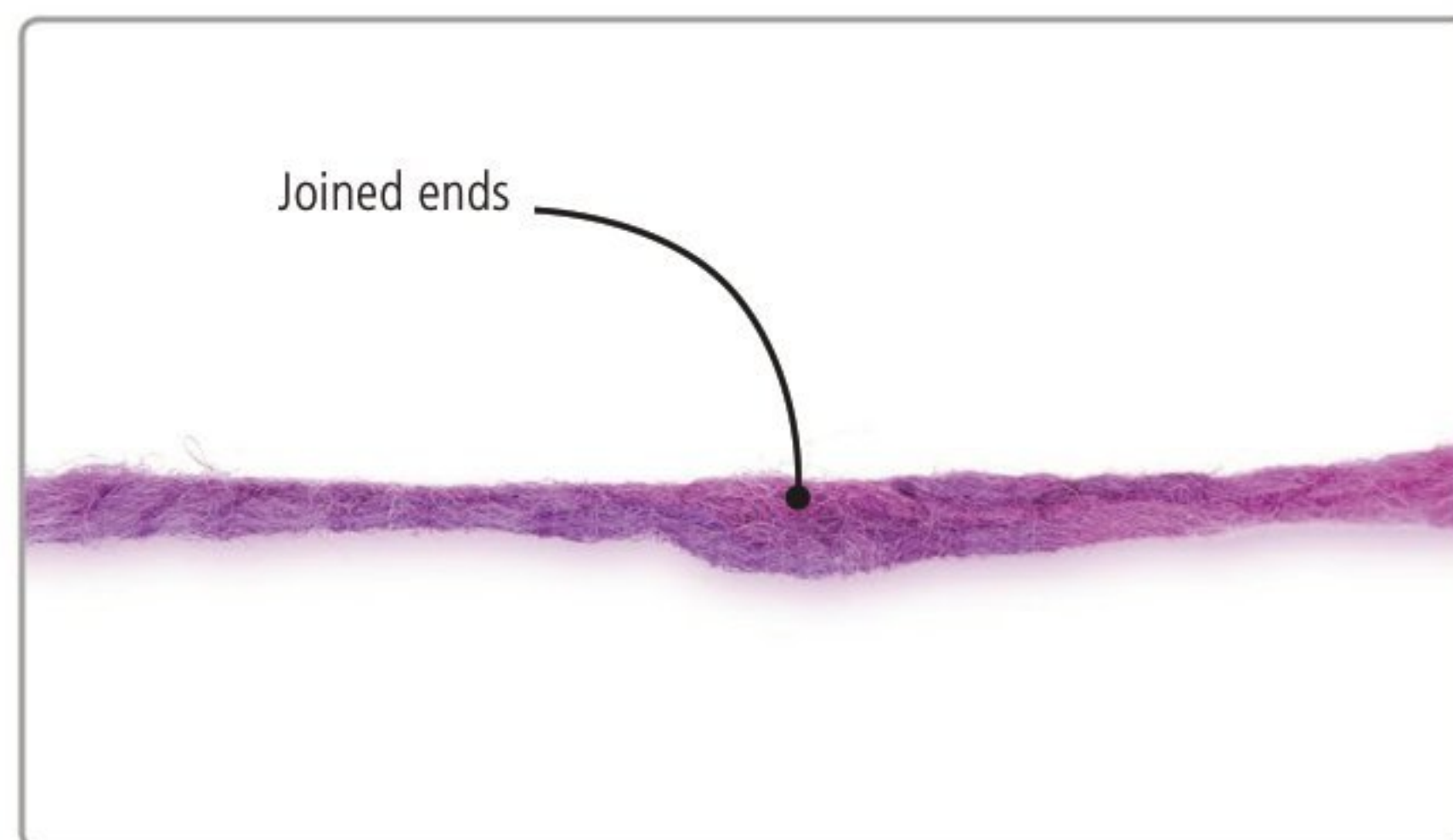
1 To join new yarn of the same color as your worked yarn, start with the end from your project and one from the new yarn.



2 Untwist about 3 inches (8cm) of the plies on each yarn end and then overlap them, with the tails going in opposite directions.



3 Soak the ends with water. Place the ends on one hand and then rub both palms together vigorously to agitate the ends.



4 You can stop rubbing your hands together when the two ends look like a single strand of yarn, indicating that they've felted together.

Joining yarns or changing colors

If you're working with a synthetic yarn or a blend and the ball runs out or if you want to alternate colors to create stripes, you'll need to properly join the yarns so your stitches don't come unraveled. It's best to join yarns or change colors when you're ready to start a new row.



1 At the beginning of a new row, hold the new yarn with your left hand, leaving a tail about 10 inches (25cm) long, and then knot the new yarn loosely around the working yarn to secure it.



2 While grasping the new yarn in your right hand, pull the first stitch of the row over your hand.



3 Pull the first stitch of the row over your hand.



4 Place the new stitch on your left arm. Continue knitting as usual using the new yarn.

Decreasing

Decreasing combines two stitches into one to shape the work. (Increases are also used for shaping but not in this book.) The two decreasing methods result in stitches that lean in different directions, which depends which arm the stitch is on.

Knit 2 together

This decrease is almost identical to a knit stitch, except you'll grab and drop 2 stitches instead of 1.



1 Knit until you reach the place where you want to decrease. End with the working yarn over your right thumb—just as if you were going to knit the next stitch.



2 Pull 2 stitches over your hand (rather than 1 stitch, which is what you would do for a knit stitch).



3 Put the new loop on your arm. You've decreased 1 stitch. Continue knitting as usual.

tip

Because the project instructions will tell you which decreasing method to use, you should become proficient in both.

Slip, slip, knit

Slip, slip, knit results in a decrease that leans in the opposite direction as a knit 2 together.



1 Knit until you reach the place where you want to decrease and then slip the next 2 stitches one at a time from one arm to the other, twisting the loops so the right side of the loop becomes the front leg.



2 Lay the working yarn from front to back over your left thumb.



3 Pull the 2 slipped stitches over your hand and drop them. You have decreased 1 stitch.

Leaning stitches: Comparing knit 2 together to slip, slip, knit

Knit 2 together slants to the right when you're working from your left arm to your right and to the left if you're working from your right arm to your left.

Slip, slip, knit slants to the left when you're working from your left arm to your right and to the right when you're working from your right arm to your left.

When decreasing, the stitches on the left edge should lean right into the center, while the stitches on the right edge should lean left into the center.

Stitches slanting to the right



Figure 1 Knit 2 together worked from the left arm to the right.

Stitches slanting to the left



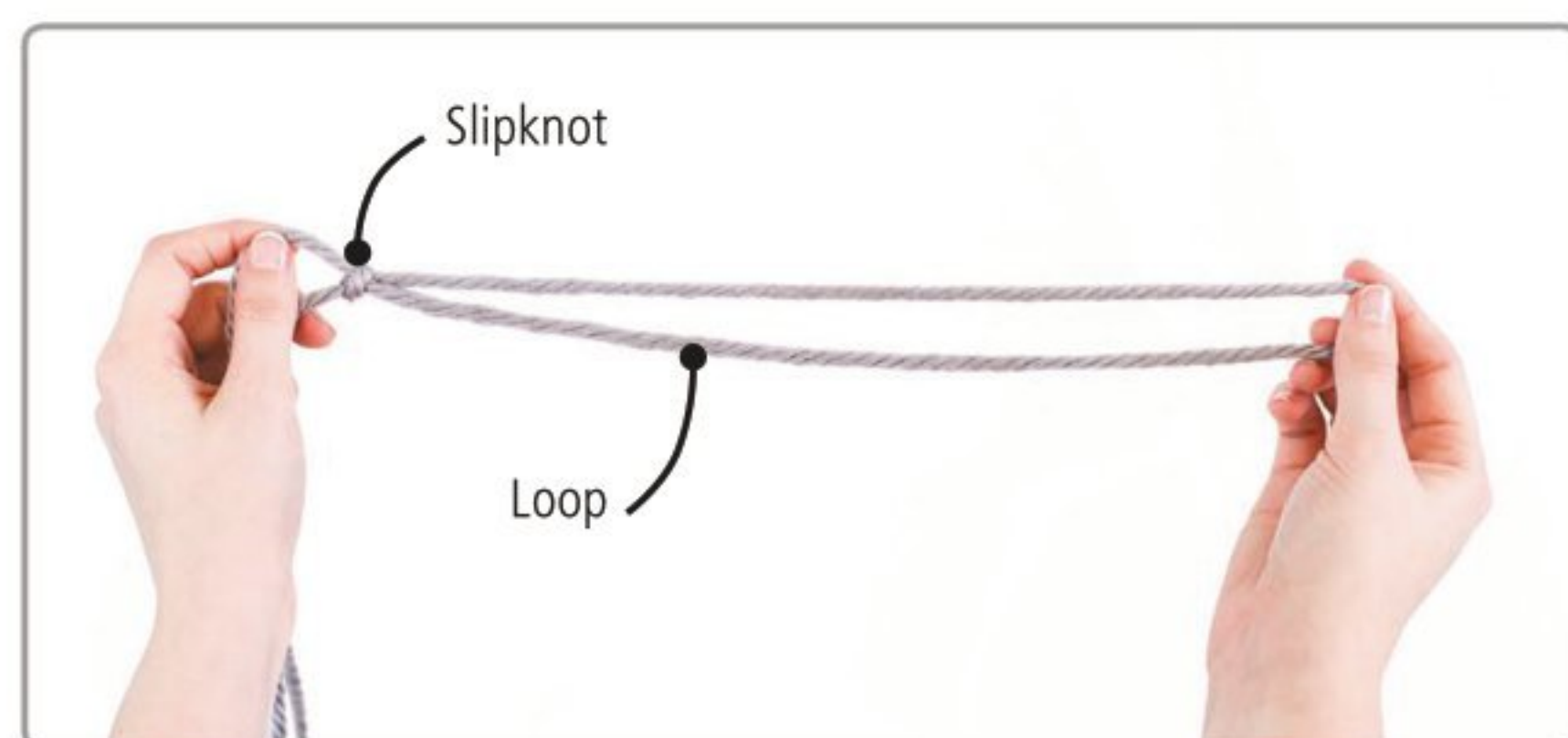
Figure 2 Slip, slip, knit worked from the left arm to the right.

Additional techniques

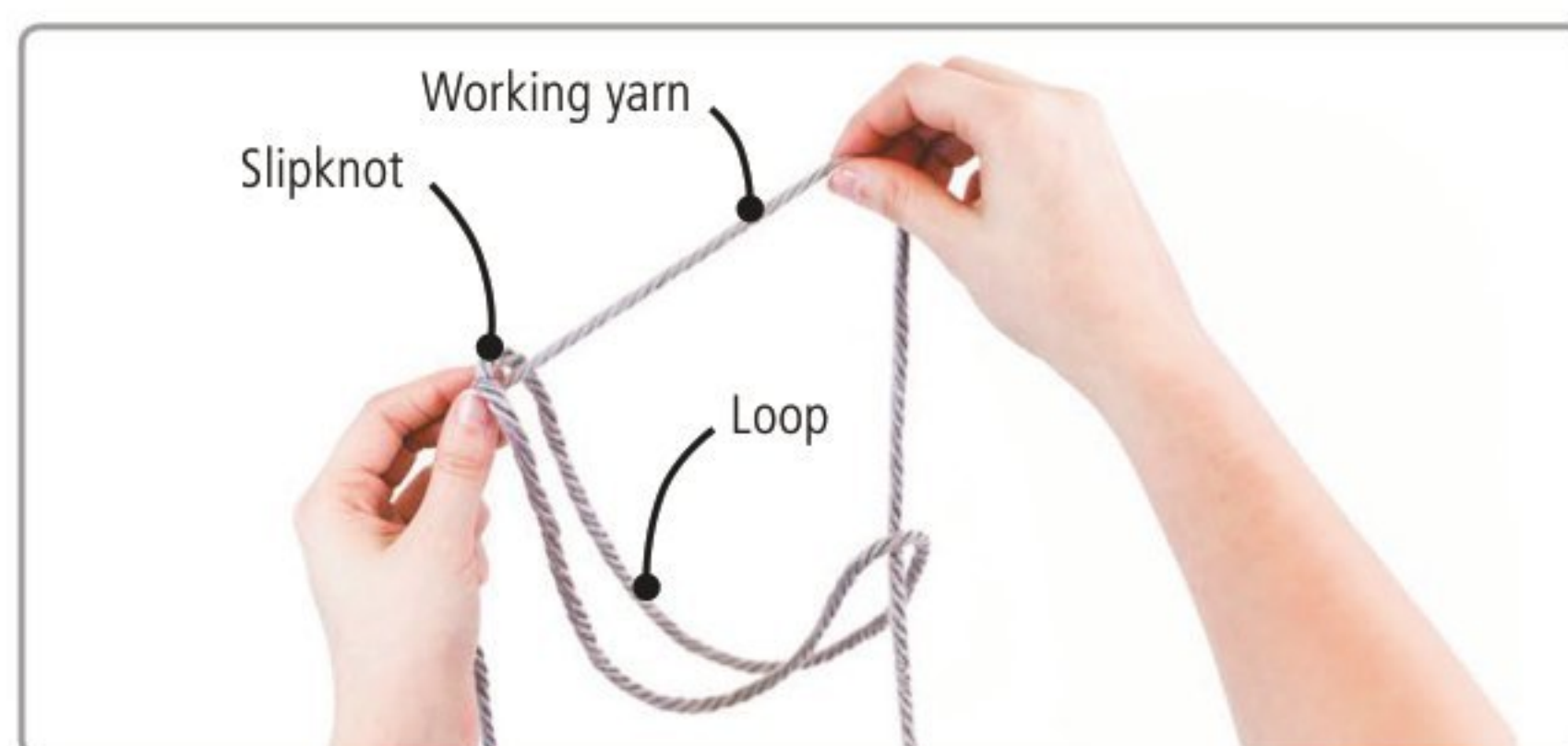
Despite being easy, arm knitting does have a couple tricks you can use to further simplify some techniques. These two methods are used in only a handful of projects in this book, but for those few, they're indispensable.

Navajo plying technique

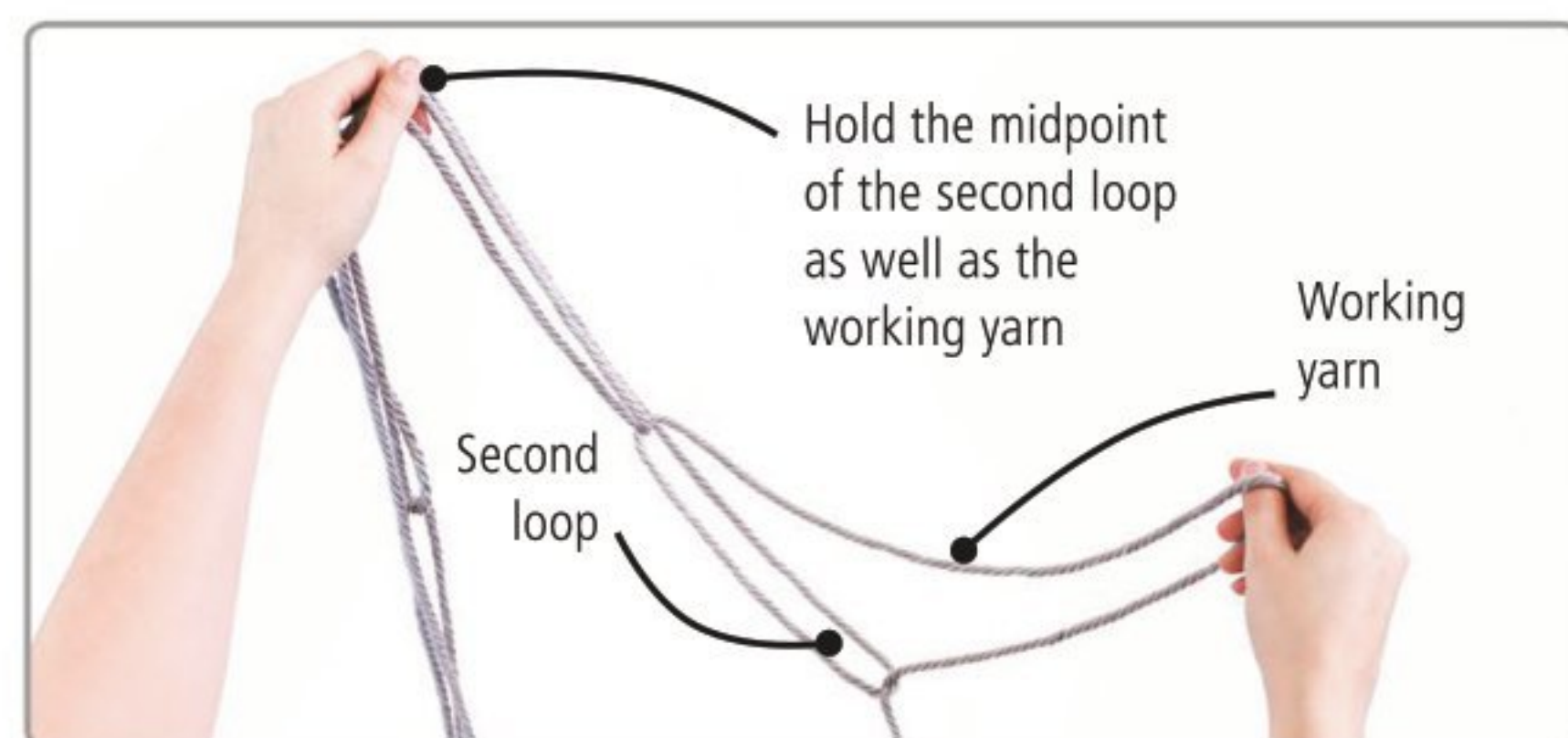
This technique—sometimes called *chain plying*—allows you to create 3 strands from one skein. You'll avoid having to knit with multiple balls, which can result in tangled strands.



1 Make a slipknot, pulling the yarn loop until it's about 12 inches (30cm) long.



2 Holding the slipknot and tail in your left hand, reach through the loop with your right hand to pull up on the working yarn, drawing it through the loop to create a second loop about 12 inches (30cm) long.



3 Drop the slipknot, and use your left hand to hold all 3 strands midway along the length of the second loop. Reach through the right end of the loop to draw out the working yarn to create a third loop 12 inches (30 cm) long. Repeat this step to Navajo ply the entire skein.

Concealed loops

Knitting made with this plying technique looks the same as if you had held 3 strands together from 3 different balls of yarn. The loops created during the plying process aren't noticeable because the many strands and stitches in the knitting camouflage their presence.

Picking up stitches

Picking up stitches allows you to create new loops on the edges of a knitted piece. It's great for creating shape and definition or adding additional length.



1 Hold the knitted piece right side up, with the edge you want to pick up stitches from at the top.



2 Place your hand through the center of the first V-shaped stitch and grab your working yarn. Leaving a long tail for weaving in later, pull the working yarn through the stitch, creating a loop.



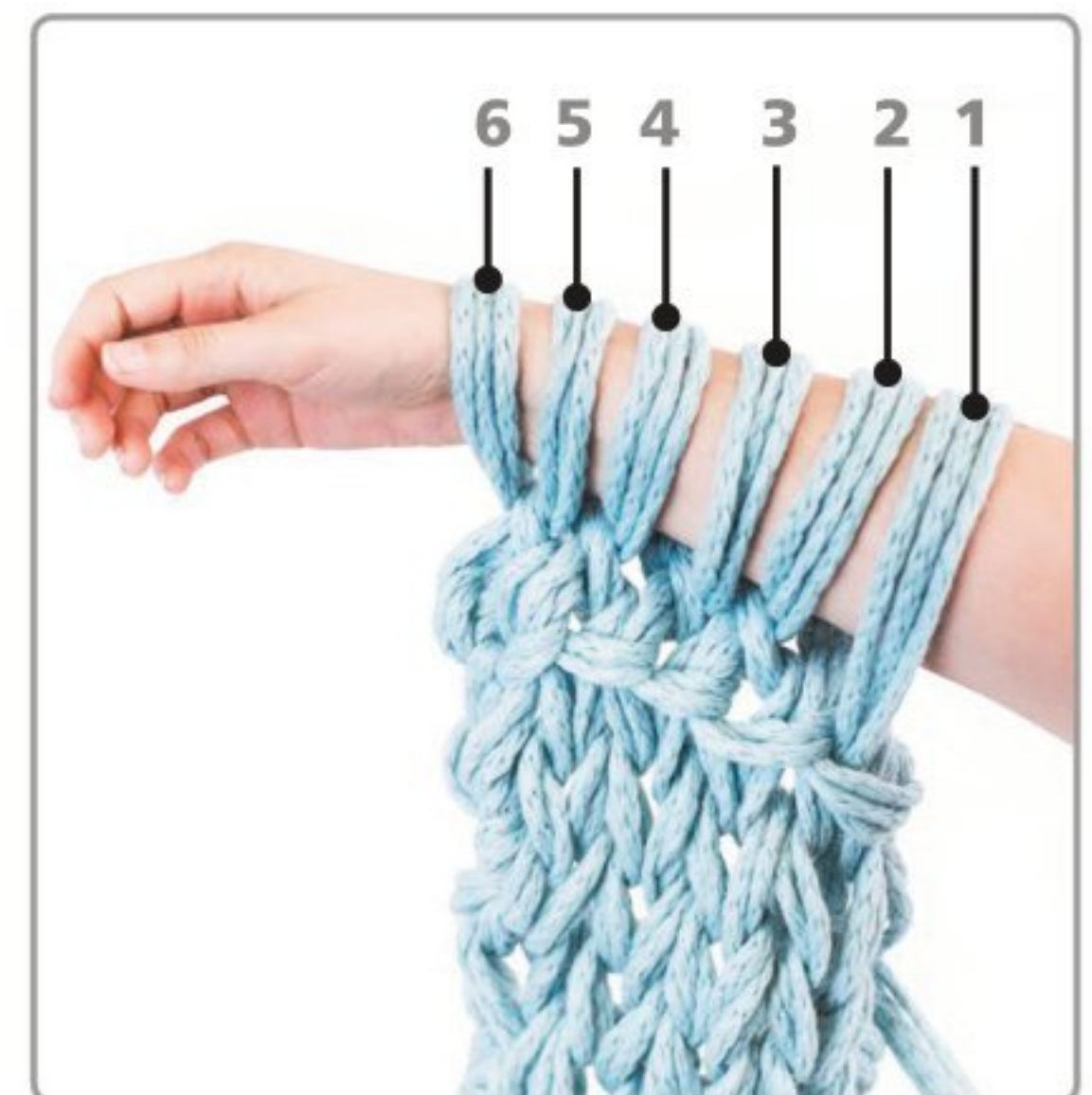
3 Place the loop on your right arm, with the working yarn extending from the stitch's front leg.



4 Place your right hand through the center of the next V-shaped stitch and then pull up another loop.



5 Place the loop on your right arm once again, with the working yarn extending from the stitch's front leg.



6 Repeat steps 4 and 5 across the edge, pulling up a loop from each V-shaped stitch until you've picked up the number of stitches instructed in the pattern.



The background of the entire page is a close-up, high-resolution image of a thick, orange-brown braided rope. The rope is twisted in a complex, multi-strand pattern, creating a textured, three-dimensional appearance. The lighting is warm, highlighting the individual fibers and the deep grooves of the braid.

Head to toe

From hats and scarves to bags and boot cuffs, these projects offer various accessories to complement your everyday look. You'll also learn to make fringe and pompoms.

Essential information

Difficulty level

Easy

Time to make

20 minutes

Finished size

48 inches (122cm) long

Materials

26 yards (24m) of super bulky netted acrylic-blend yarn

Tools

Scissors

Gauge

2 stitches and 2 rows equals 4 inches (10cm).

This project was made with 2 skeins of Premier Yarns Couture Jazz in Pumpkin Pie, 13 yards (11m).



Wear this scarf by running one end through a knit stitch a third of the way along the scarf's length.

Twisted scarf

Rather than being knitted from plied yarn, this scarf uses a yarn knitted as a netted tube. This gives the fiber more loft and bulk, making it perfect for arm knitting.

How to make

Magic knot

The purpose of this nearly invisible knot is to connect the 2 skeins of yarn into one single piece of yarn before you start knitting. That way, you'll have fewer ends to weave in later.

1 Pull one end out from each skein and then place them on your work surface, with the tails going in opposite directions.

2 Tie one tail around the other and then tie the loose tail around the other working yarn, as shown in Figure 1, and then loosely tighten the knots.

3 Holding the working yarns, pull gently in opposite directions until the knots slide together.

4 Pull the knots tight and then trim the ends close to the knot.

Scarf

1 Cast on 4 stitches.

2 Arm knit until you have approximately 1 yard (1m) of working yarn left.

3 Bind off all the stitches, leaving a 10-inch-long (25cm) tail.

Finish

At each end of the scarf, tie the long tail into a loop on the inside of the scarf and then cut the remaining yarn or weave it into the scarf.

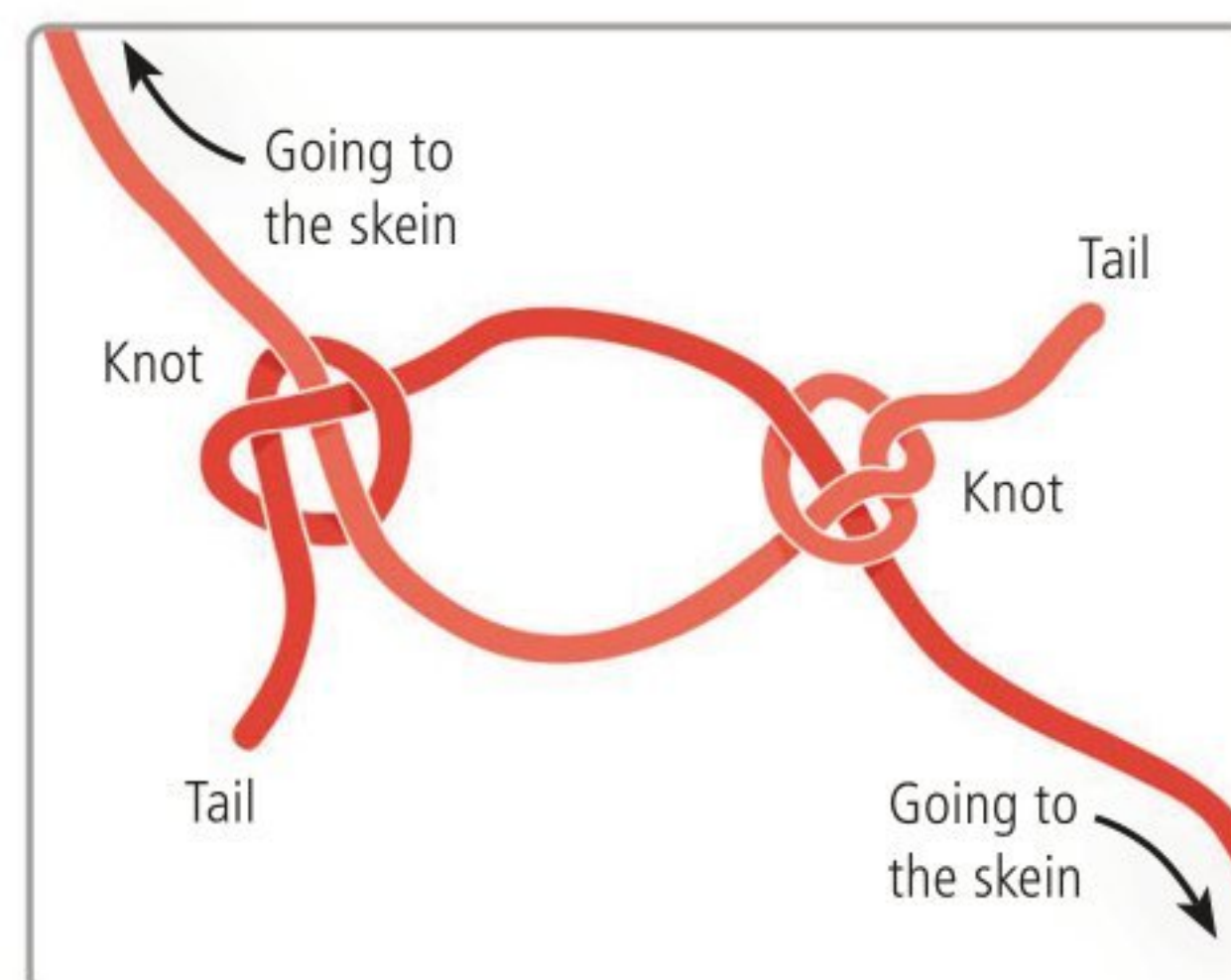


Figure 1 In the second step of making a magic knot, tie each tail around the other.

Keep the stitches consistently tight on your arms to ensure even stitches that aren't too large.

*tip*

You can create a striped effect with two colors by using multiple magic knots to attach several colors of yarn together.

tip

Try on the boot cuffs as you arm knit them—and before you add the buttons—to ensure a snug fit around your calf.



Essential information

Difficulty level

Easy

Time to make

45 minutes

Finished size

5 x 18 inches (13 x 46cm)

Materials

55 yards (50m) of super bulky T-shirt yarn, with 3 strands held together

Four 1³/₈-inch (3.5cm) decorative buttons

Sewing thread in any color

Tools

Sewing needle

Scissors

Gauge

3 stitches and 2.5 rows equals 4 inches (10cm) before stretching.

This project was made with 1 skein of Lion Brand Yarns Fettuccini in Solid, 55 yards (50m).

Boot cuffs

Choose plant-based or synthetic yarn to make these funky accessories. Animal fibers will felt together if they rub against your boots, causing the cuffs to form pills.

How to make

Cuffs (make 2)

1 Cast on 6 stitches.

2 Arm knit in stockinette stitch until the cuff measures 18 inches (46cm) long when stretched or the desired length plus 1 inch (2.5cm). Before you measure the length, stretch out the cuff lengthwise.

3 Bind off all the stitches, and weave in all the ends.

Assemble

Sew 2 buttons to the short edge of the stockinette side of each boot cuff. To hide the thread, use your fingers to unroll the T-shirt yarn and then sew the button there. When you finish, the yarn will roll back up, hiding the sewing. Trim the button threads.



Choose buttons that either stand out against the yarn you use or ones that blend into the cuffs.

You can use a different yarn or a different number of strands, but make sure the cuff isn't too bulky. A bulky cuff might cause an uncomfortable fit when your boot goes over it.

Essential information

Difficulty level

Easy

Time to make

30 minutes

Finished size

4.5 x 72 inches
(11 x 182cm)

Materials

125 yards (114m) of super bulky yarn, with 3 strands held together

Tools

Scissors

Gauge

2 stitches and 3.75 rows equals 4 inches (10cm).

This project was made with 1 bump of BagSmith Big Stitch Merino in Multi Fawn, 125 yards (114m).

Infinity scarf

A yarn that resembles dreadlocks gives this infinity scarf its unique appearance. Wrap it twice around your neck for a casual look or three times for a super snug cowl.

How to make

Scarf

- 1** Cast on 4 stitches.
- 2** Arm knit until the piece measures approximately 72 inches (183cm).
- 3** Bind off all the stitches.
- 4** Seam the cast-on and bind-off edges together.
- 5** Weave in and trim all the ends.

Creating a scarf is a great introduction to arm knitting: It doesn't take long to make; it's inexpensive; and you'll quickly enjoy knitting with your arms.



This scarf looks like it includes three different yarns in several different colors, but the designer actually achieved it by using a single multicolored yarn.

*tip*

Making this scarf with a light-colored yarn allows you to wear it with myriad shades of clothing.

*tip*

Placing the piece flat on a table to seam it will result in a neater and less bulky seam because you can more easily line up the stitches.

Essential information

Difficulty level

Easy

Time to make

20 minutes

Finished size

28 x 12 inches (71 x 31cm)

Materials

42 yards (38m) of super bulky yarn, with 2 strands held together

Tools

Scissors

Gauge

2 stitches and 1 row equals 4 inches (10cm).

This project was made with 2 balls of Loops & Threads Biggie in Dark Gray, 21 yards (19m).



Keeping the stitches tight as you arm knit will give this cowl more durability.

Mega cowl

You'll arm knit this soft, cozy cowl in no time flat! Made with a luxurious roving-like yarn, this delightful accessory will keep the compliments coming—and the chill away.

How to make

Cowl

- 1** Cast on 6 stitches.
- 2** Arm knit until the piece measures 28 inches (71cm) long.
- 3** Bind off all the stitches, leaving an 18-inch-long (46cm) tail.
- 4** Place the piece on your work surface wrong side up and then seam the edges by using a whip stitch.
- 5** Weave in all the ends.



Whip stitch the seam carefully so it's barely visible no matter how you wear this cowl.

Try leaving the cowl unseamed. Instead, sew a large decorative button to one of the edge corners. You don't need to make a buttonhole—slide the button through any open stitch.

Essential information

Difficulty level

Easy

Time to make

10 minutes

Finished size

17 x 5 inches (43 x 13cm)

Materials

318 yards (291m) of super bulky yarn, with 3 strands held together

Tools

Scissors

Gauge

4 stitches and 2 rows equals 4 inches (10cm).

This project was made with 3 balls of Lion Brand Yarns Wool-Ease Thick & Quick in Blossom, 106 yards (97m).

Ear warmer

Need a last-minute gift? One that's not only fast and easy to arm knit but is also fun to wear? Made with a soft, cozy yarn, this pretty accessory meets all those desires.

How to make

Ear warmer

- 1** Cast on 6 stitches.
- 2** Arm knit until the piece measures approximately 17 inches (43cm) long.
- 3** Bind off all the stitches.
- 4** Seam the short ends together with a whip stitch.
- 5** Weave in all the ends.



Before you seam the short edges together, make sure the piece isn't twisted.



Choose colors for this ear warmer that match your seasonal outfits.

After you finish arm knitting to the noted length, try this on your head before binding off all the stitches.

*tip*

To make this ear warmer extra thick and extra cozy, hold together 4 or 5 strands of a super bulky yarn.

*tip*

You can make the fringe as long or as short as you like—just make incremental cuts until you feel it's the perfect length.

Essential information

Difficulty level

Moderate

Time to make

90 minutes

Finished size

8 x 91 inches (20 x 231cm)

Materials

382 yards (349m) of super bulky yarn, with 3 strands held together

Tools

Stitch holder

Scissors

Measuring tape

Gauge

3 stitches and 2 rows equals 4 inches (10cm).

This project was made with 7 balls of Plymouth Yarn Baby Alpaca Magna in 3317 Tiffany, 54.5 yards (50m).

Cable scarf

If you're eager to use a luxury yarn, this is the project for it. This scarf is easy to make, and it's versatile because you can drape it over your shoulders or wrap it.

How to make

Scarf

1 Cast on 8 stitches.

2 Stitch row: Purl the first 2 stitches, knit the next 4 stitches, and purl the last 2 stitches.

3 Cable row: Purl the first 2 stitches and then slip the next 2 stitches onto the stitch holder, as shown in Figure 1.

Slip the stitches on the stitch holder off your arm and place them behind the piece. Arm knit the next 2 stitches. Place the stitches from the stitch holder back onto your arm, as shown in Figure 2, and then knit these 2 stitches.

Purl the last 2 stitches of the row.

4 Continue knitting, alternating between the stitch and cable rows, until the scarf measures 91 inches (231cm) or your desired length.

5 Bind off all the stitches, and weave in all the ends.



Figure 1 This is how you slip 2 stitches onto your stitch holder.



Figure 2 This is how you slip the 2 stitches on the stitch holder back onto your arm.

Continued ➡

Fringe

- 1** Cut forty-eight 20-inch-long (51cm) strands of yarn.
- 2** Form the fringe by holding 3 strands of yarn together and folding the strands in half, forming a loop at the top.
- 3** Slide the loop through the first stitch of the cast-on edge.
- 4** Slip the fringe tails through the loop.
- 5** Pull taut on the fringe tails to secure the fringe.
- 6** Repeat this fringe process across the cast-on and bind-off edges. Trim the fringe evenly.

See the Making Fringe section for more specific instructions.

This long scarf could easily be knit as a **cowl** or an **infinity scarf**. Knit to the length you'd like and then **seam** the **cast-on** and **bind-off** edges together—and, of course, leave off the fringe.



Choose a light color for this scarf to help spotlight and define the cable that runs down the center.



*tip*

This scarf can feel heavy as you arm knit. Use a tabletop to hold it as you work. This will take some of the weight off your arms.

Making fringe

Fringe is a great embellishment for scarves and rugs. Customize it as thick, long, and luxurious as you like. You can also select a different color than the one used for the main part of the project, attach fringes in alternating colors, or mix several hues.

What you'll need

- Scissors
- Yarn specified by the project instructions
- Ruler



Cut all the strands first



1 Cut the strands of yarn as instructed by the pattern. (The instructions will tell you how many strands and how long each strand should be.)



Stitch closest to edge

3 Slide the loop under the first stitch closest to the edge.



6 Repeat steps 2 through 5 across the edges where you want fringe.



2 Hold together the number of strands mentioned in the project instructions and then fold the strands in half, forming a loop on one side.

Fringe Modifications

To make your fringe look and feel thicker than the one shown for a project, just cut more strands of yarn in step 1 and then add additional strands to each stitch in steps 2 to 6. For longer fringe, in step 1, cut the yarn twice as long as the desired finished length, plus 1 inch (2.5cm) for waste.



Bring the tails up and then through the loop

4 Pull the fringe tails through the loop.



Pull the tails to tighten them

5 Pull the fringe tails taut to secure them.



Make brisk cuts

7 Use scissors to trim the fringe ends evenly.

tip

To keep the fringe ends even, place a ruler across the entire fringe to use as a guide as you cut.

Essential information

Difficulty level

Moderate

Time to make

90 minutes

Finished size

16 x 15 inches (41 x 38cm)

Materials

176 yards (161m) of super bulky yarn, with 6 strands held together (or 2 strands held together if using the Navajo plying technique)

Thread

Tools

Scissors

Sewing needle

Gauge

2 stitches and 3.75 rows equals 4 inches (10cm).

This project was made with 2 skeins of Premier Craft-Tee Yarn in Light Grey Shades, 88 yards (81m).

Bento bag

Based loosely on a Japanese design, this bag has an asymmetrical structure that looks symmetrical once assembled. It folds flat but actually holds a lot.

How to make

Bag

1 Cast on 8 stitches, leaving a 15-inch-long (38cm) tail for seaming.

2 Arm knit 23 rows or until the piece measures approximately 32 inches (81cm).

3 Bind off all the stitches. Cut the yarn, leaving a 15-inch-long (38cm) tail.

You can line your bag by tacking fabric to the knit piece before seaming the bag together and then sew the fabric permanently to the edges after assembling the bag.



This isn't your usual handbag. But that's what will make a statement, especially when you tell people you made it with your arms.

*tip*

Use the Navajo plying technique to turn 1 strand into 3 strands so you don't have to hold 6 strands simultaneously.



You can give your bag a different personality by making your own yarn from stretchy fabric.

Assemble

1 Place the piece wrong side up and horizontally on your work surface. Fold the left edge across the piece so a section 7 inches (18cm) wide overlaps the rest of the piece, as shown in Figure 1. Using a mattress stitch, seam only the bottom edges together along the 7-inch (18cm) overlap.

2 Unfold corner A down as far as possible toward the bottom-left corner to get it out of the way, as shown in Figure 2. Now fold the right edge across

the piece so a 7-inch-wide (18cm) section overlaps the rest of the piece, as shown in Figure 3. (It might look messy, but forge on!) Using a mattress stitch, seam only the upper edges together along the 7 inches (18cm).

3 Sew corners A and B to each other to make the handle.

See the Making T-Shirt Yarn and Navajo Plying Technique sections for more specific instructions.

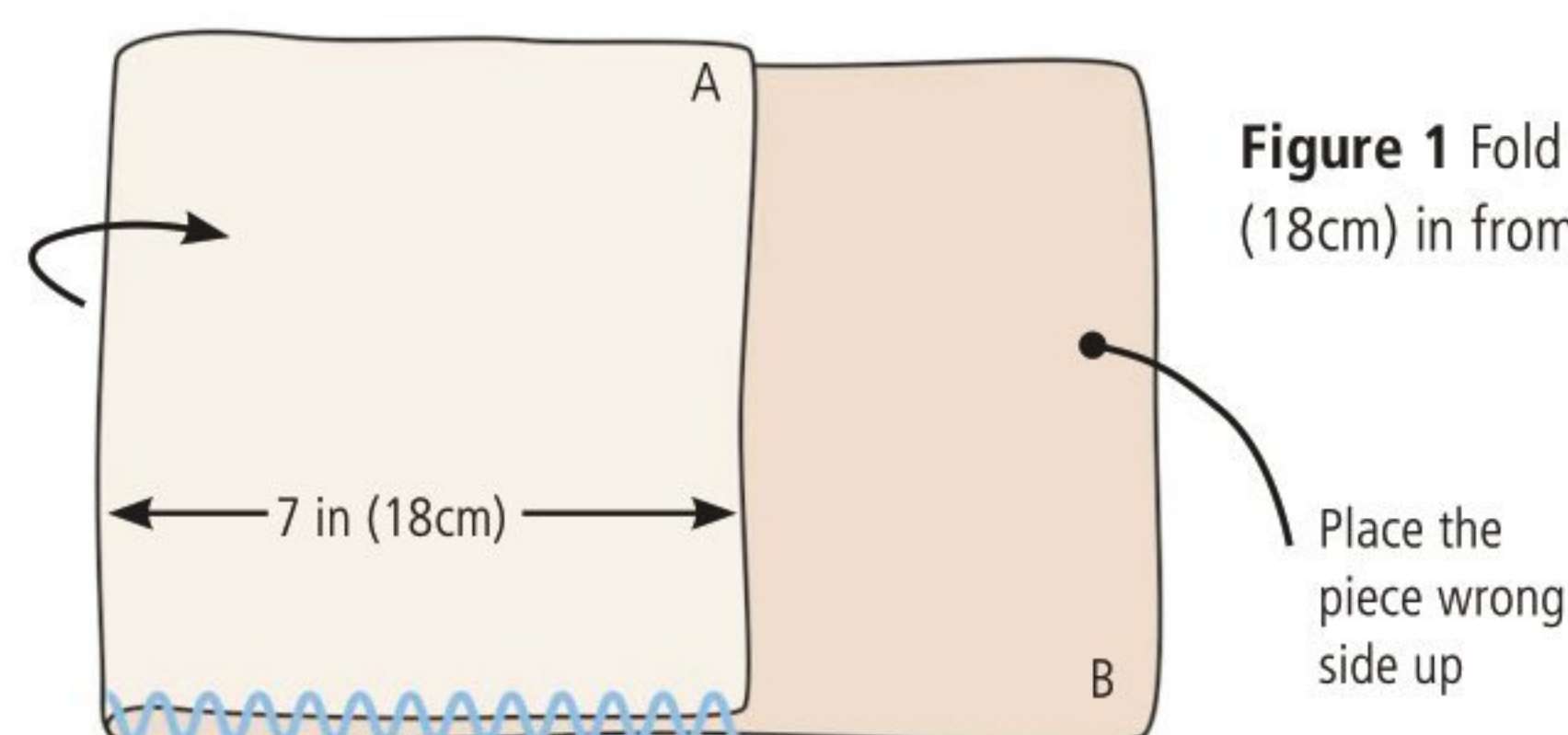


Figure 1 Fold the piece 7 inches (18cm) in from the left edge.

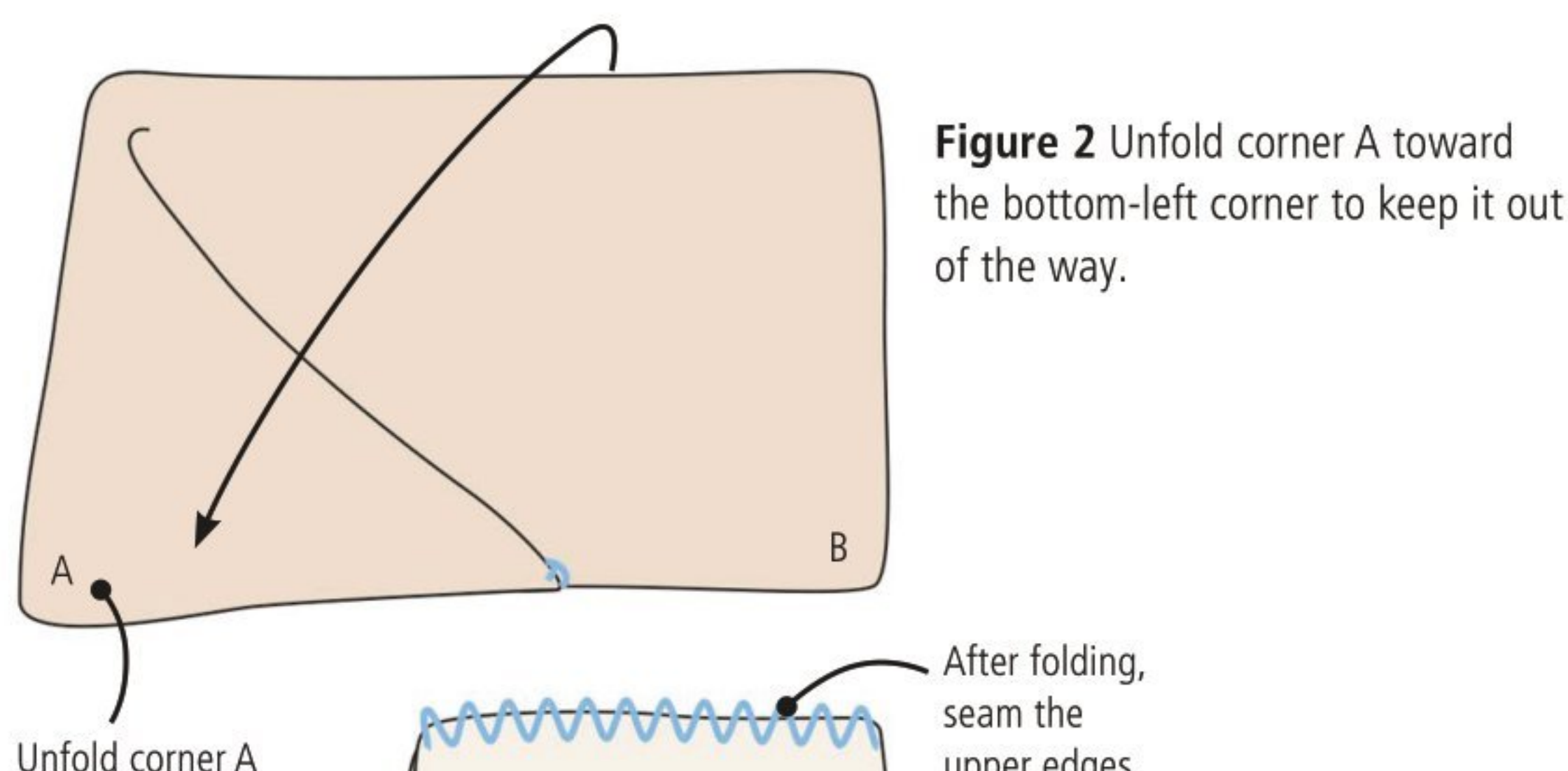


Figure 2 Unfold corner A toward the bottom-left corner to keep it out of the way.

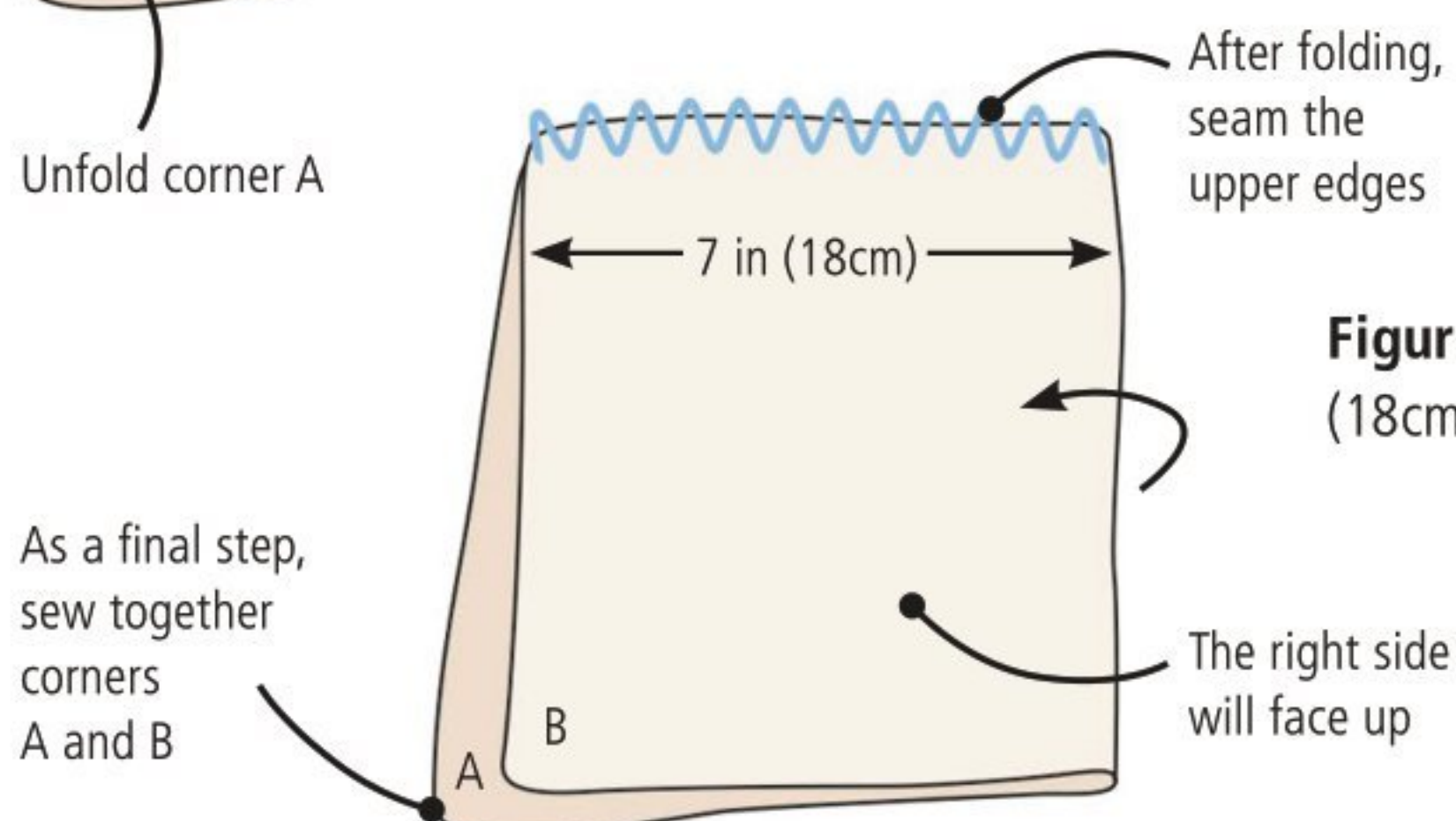


Figure 3 Fold the piece 7 inches (18cm) in from the right edge.



Essential information

Difficulty level

Moderate

Time to make

45 minutes

Finished size

Chest: 28 (32, 36, 40) inches
[71 (81, 91, 102) cm]

Materials

30 to 60 yards (27 to 55m)
or 1.5 to 3 pounds
(680 to 1360g) of raw,
unspun merino wool roving
with a 23-micron count
(or use giant yarn in the
same amount)

Tools

Felting needle

Scissors

Gauge

2 stitches and 3 rows equals
4 inches (10cm).

*This project was made with
1 ball of Intreccio Giant
Merino roving in Natural,
30 yd (27m).*

Boho vest

This chunky cropped vest is made as a single piece—except for two small seams at the shoulders. And it's also reversible, making it even more irresistible.

How to make

Vest

Measure your bust. Referring to the finished size in the column at left, when following the instructions, use the number in the same position as your chest size.

1 Cast on 14 (16, 18, 20) stitches.

2 Arm knit 4 (5, 6, 7) rows of stockinette stitch.

Right-front lapel

1 Knit 1, knit 2 together. This is the beginning of the front-right lapel, which now consists of 2 stitches. For now, work only with the 2 stitches you just knitted and leave the other 11 (13, 15, 17) stitches unworked.

2 Arm knit 7 (8, 9, 10) more rows of your 2-stitch right-front lapel and then bind off all the stitches on the front-right lapel.

3 Cut the roving/yarn to begin working on the center-back section of the vest, leaving a 15-inch-long (38cm) tail to stitch the lapel to the back section at the shoulders once you've completed the knitting.



Keep your stitches as tight as you can in order to create a solid texture for your vest.

Because you have so few stitches to knit, you won't need to push them all the way up your arm.

Center-back section

1 Return to the 11 (13, 15, 17) unworked stitches. Slip, slip, knit to decrease 1 stitch, knit 4 (6, 8, 10) stitches, knit 2 together. Leave the final 3 stitches unworked for the left-front lapel. Continue working with the 6 (8, 10, 12) remaining stitches for the center-back section.

2 Arm knit 5 (6, 7, 8) rows of the center-back section and then bind off. Cut the roving/yarn to begin working on the second lapel. You don't need to leave a tail.

Front-left lapel

1 Return to the 3 remaining stitches. Slip, slip, knit to decrease 1 stitch, knit 1. The left-front lapel now has 2 stitches.

2 Arm knit 7 (8, 9, 10) more rows of the 2-stitch front-left lapel and then bind off. Cut the roving/yarn, leaving a 15-inch-long (38cm) tail to stitch the front and back pieces together at the shoulders later.

Join the shoulders

Use your fingers and the tails to stitch the lapel tops to the 2 outside stitches on either side of the center-back section, as shown in Figure 1. You'll join A to A, B to B, C to C, and D to D.

Finish

Trim all the ends of the roving/yarn to about 8 inches (20cm) long and then weave or needle felt the ends of the yarn/roving into the vest to ensure they permanently stay in place.

See the Needle Felting Roving section for more specific instructions.

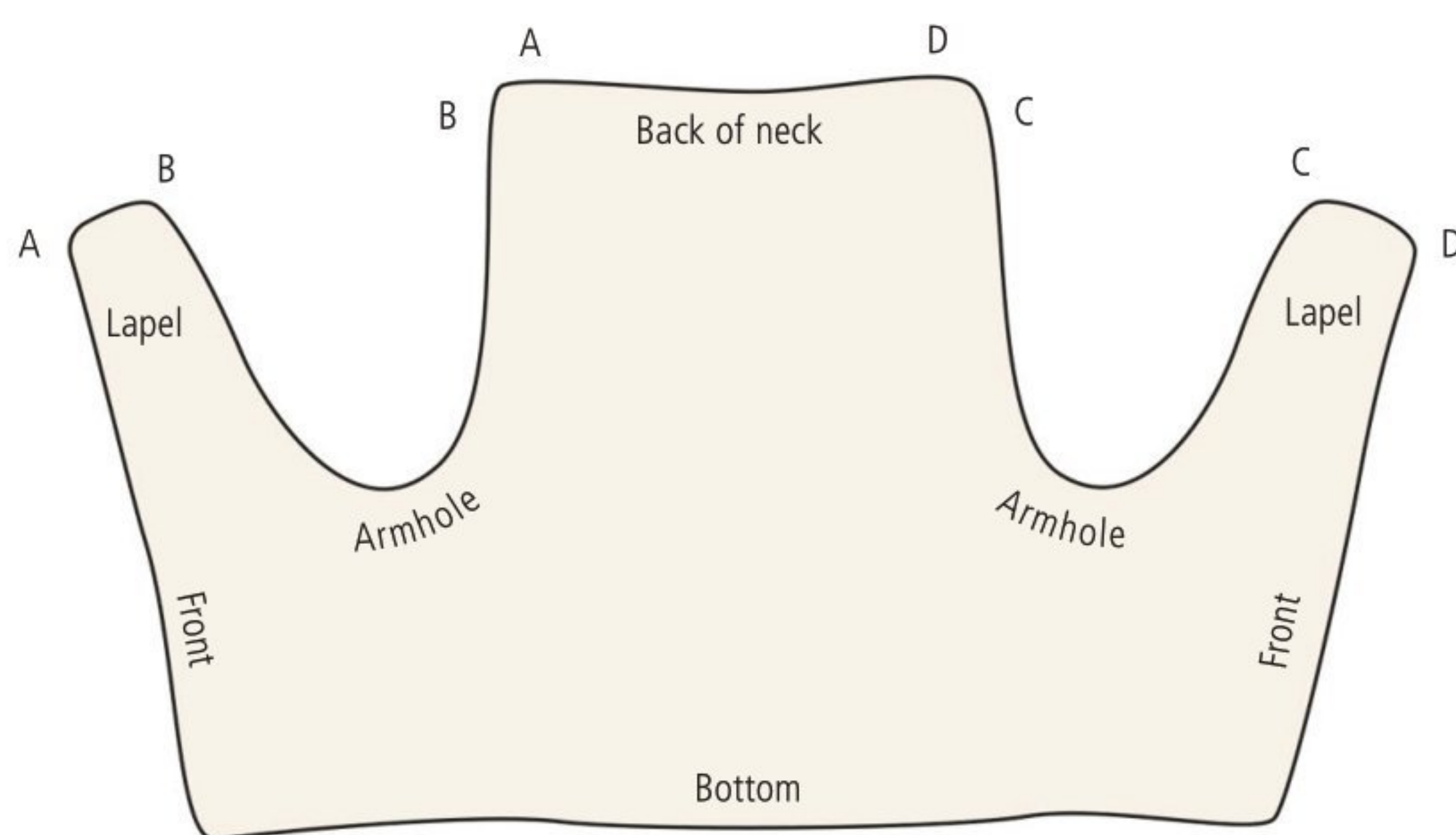


Figure 1 Join A and B on the lapel to A and B on the back of the neck and then join C and D on the lapel to C and D on the back of the neck.



***tip***

You'll use the tails left after making the lapels to join the shoulders. You don't need a needle—just use your fingers.

Essential information

Difficulty level
Moderate

Time to make
20 minutes

Finished size
20-inch (51cm)
circumference

Materials
15 yards (14m) or
.75 pounds (340g) of raw,
unspun merino wool
roving with a 23-micron
count (or use giant yarn
in the same amount)

Tools
Felting needle
Scissors

Gauge
2 stitches and 3 rows
equals 4 inches (10cm).

*This project was made with
1 ball of Intreccio Giant
Merino roving in Dusty
Rose, 20 yards (18m).*

Quirky hat

This hat is the perfect beginner project because it knits up fast and lets you practice a new skill: decreases. Making this hat in roving results in a structured shape.

How to make

Hat

1 Cast on 12 stitches.

2 Arm knit 1 row.

Row 2: Knit 2 together, knit 8, slip, slip, knit (2 decreases made).

Row 3: Knit 2 together, knit 6, slip, slip, knit (2 decreases made).

Row 4: Knit 2 together, knit 4, slip, slip, knit (2 decreases made).

Row 5: Knit 2 together, knit 2, slip, slip, knit (2 decreases made).

3 Draw yarn through the 4 remaining stitches. To avoid a bump at the top of your hat, consider tightening the tension on those last 4 stitches before pulling the tail through them. Cut the roving/yarn, leaving a 24-inch-long (61cm) tail, and pull it all the way through, cinching the top by pulling the tail firmly through the remaining 4 stitches.

4 Use your fingers to thread the roving/yarn tail through the edge stitches of either side, creating a back seam.



You can adjust this hat's shape after knitting. Roving is easy to work with, but treat it gently.

Finish

Weave in both ends of the roving/yarn. If you're using roving, you may also choose to secure your ends after weaving them by needle felting them into the underside of a stitch. This will create an invisible and permanent connection.

See the Needle Felting Roving section for more specific instructions.

Roving can remain durable if you keep your stitches tight and secure any loose ends.

***tip***

To create a more relaxed fit, try using multiple strands of yarn rather than roving.

*tip*

Because ribbon yarn is slippery, make sure you aren't dropping any loops off your arm as you knit.

Essential information

Difficulty level

Moderate

Time to make

20 minutes

Finished size

34 x 2.5 inches (86 x 6cm)

Materials

69 yards (63m) of bulky ribbon yarn, with 6 strands held together

17 inches (43cm) of chain in your preferred color

Lobster clasp

Four 10mm jump rings

Tools

2 pairs of flat-nose jewelry pliers

Wire cutters

Scissors

Gauge

2 stitches and 2 rows equals 4 inches (10cm).

This project was made with 1 ball of Lion Brand Yarns Martha Stewart Crafts Glitter Ribbon in Verdalite, 69 yards (63m).

Knitted necklace

Try the rope-like I-cord stitch with this quick and easy necklace. You don't need any jewelry-making experience—assembly requires just basic techniques.

How to make

Necklace

1 Divide the yarn into 6 equal lengths and then rewind it into balls.

2 Cast on 3 stitches.

3 Transfer the stitches to your opposite arm by slipping them one at a time. When you finish, the working yarn should be on the same side as your elbow rather than on the same side as your hand.

4 Arm knit these 3 stitches, pulling the working yarn across the back of the piece before you knit the first stitch. This helps create the rope-like I-cord look.

5 Transfer the stitches back to your other arm. Note that you're only knitting the stitches off one arm—always beginning with the working yarn on the same side as your elbow.

6 Repeat the knitting and transferring steps, working in I-cord until the piece measures 16 inches (41cm) or your desired length, and then bind off.

7 Weave in all the ends.



Use a synthetic but bright ribbon yarn for this necklace, allowing the color to stand out no matter what you wear with it.

Don't panic if you weave in your ends and they poke out a bit. You can use a needle and thread to secure them in the center of the I-cord.

Continued ➔

Jewelry findings

1 Grasp one side of a jump ring with your jewelry pliers and then grasp the other side with the second pair of pliers. Turn one wrist away from you, opening the jump ring, as shown in Figure 1.

Don't open the jump ring by pulling the ends apart from each other, as this can weaken and deform the ring.

2 Repeat the previous step to open the other 3 jump rings.

3 Using the wire cutters, cut the chain into 2 equal lengths.

Assemble

1 Attach the chain to the I-cord by slipping 1 jump ring into either end of the I-cord, working the jump ring through as many strands of ribbon yarn as possible.

2 Slip one end of a piece of chain onto that jump ring. Grasp one side of the jump ring with your pliers and then grasp the opposite side of the jump ring with the second pliers. Turn one wrist toward you, allowing the jump ring ends to meet and thus closing the jump ring.

3 Attach the clasp to the chain by catching the loose end of the chain and one half of the lobster clasp in another jump ring. Close this jump ring.

4 Repeat the previous three steps to attach the chain and the clasp on the other end of the I-cord.

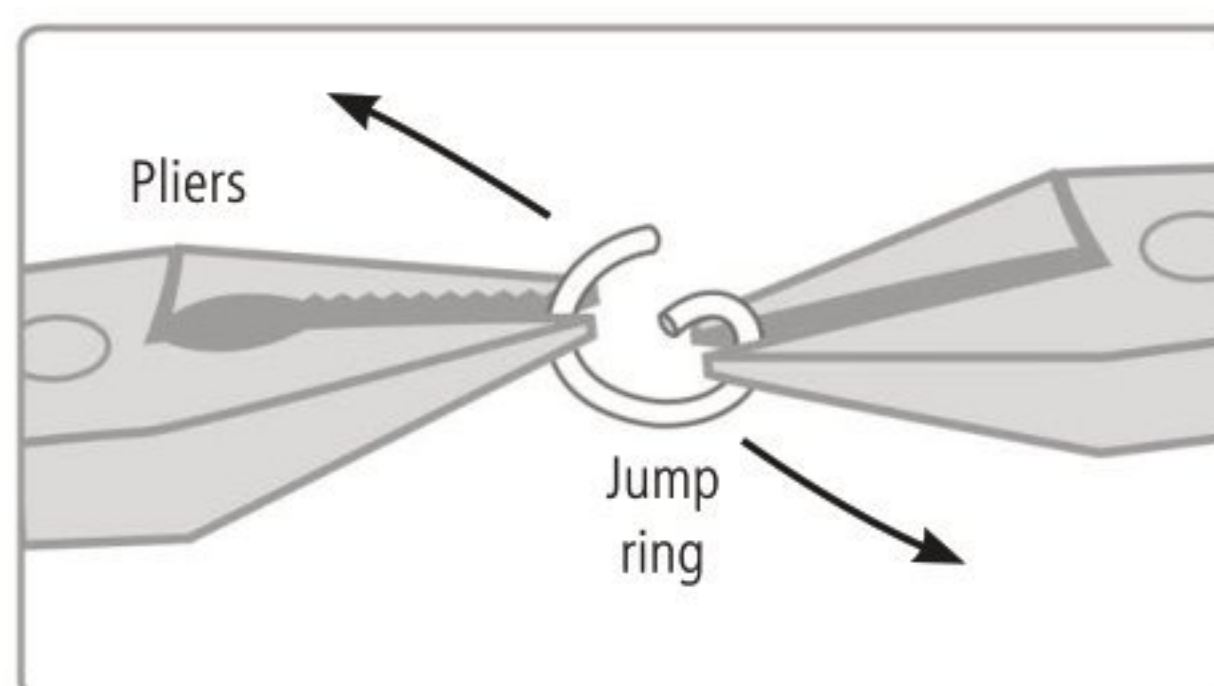


Figure 1 Open the ring by twisting the ends away from each other, not by pulling them apart.



You can use a different length of chain.

Make sure it feels comfortable around your neck before you attach it to the necklace.





Essential information

Difficulty level
Moderate

Time to make
45 minutes

Finished size
Adult: Circumference equals 20 inches (51cm)
Child: Circumference equals 16 inches (41cm)

Materials
33 yards (30m) of jumbo netted acrylic-blend yarn for each hat

Tools
Scissors

Gauge
2 stitches and 3.75 rows equals 4 inches (10cm).

Each project was made with 2 skeins of Premier Yarns Couture Jazz in Denim, 16.5 yards (15m).



These bonnets are easy to assemble and fun to wear.

Ski bonnet

Who doesn't love a hat topped with a sprightly pom-pom? Braided ties also add to this bonnet's charm. This pattern comes in two sizes: adult and child.

How to make

Adult size

- 1** Cast on 5 stitches.
- 2** Arm knit 15 rows.
- 3** Bind off all the stitches, leaving a 10-inch-long (25cm) tail.

Child size

- 1** Cast on 4 stitches.
- 2** Arm knit 13 rows.
- 3** Bind off all the stitches, leaving a 10-inch-long (25cm) tail.

Finish

- 1** Fold the fabric in half—right side out. Place the fold at the top and the cast-on and bind-off edges at the bottom. Use a mattress stitch to seam one side—the hat's back when it's unfolded.
- 2** Weave in and trim all the ends.

Ties (make 2)

Cut three 18-inch (46cm) strands of yarn. Knot them to the hat's front corners. Braid the strands and then tie a knot.

Pompom

Make a 2-inch (5cm) pompom and then tie it to the crown of the hat with a thinner piece of yarn. Figure 1 shows how to seam the hat, attach the ties, and add the pompom.

See the Making Pompoms section for more specific instructions.

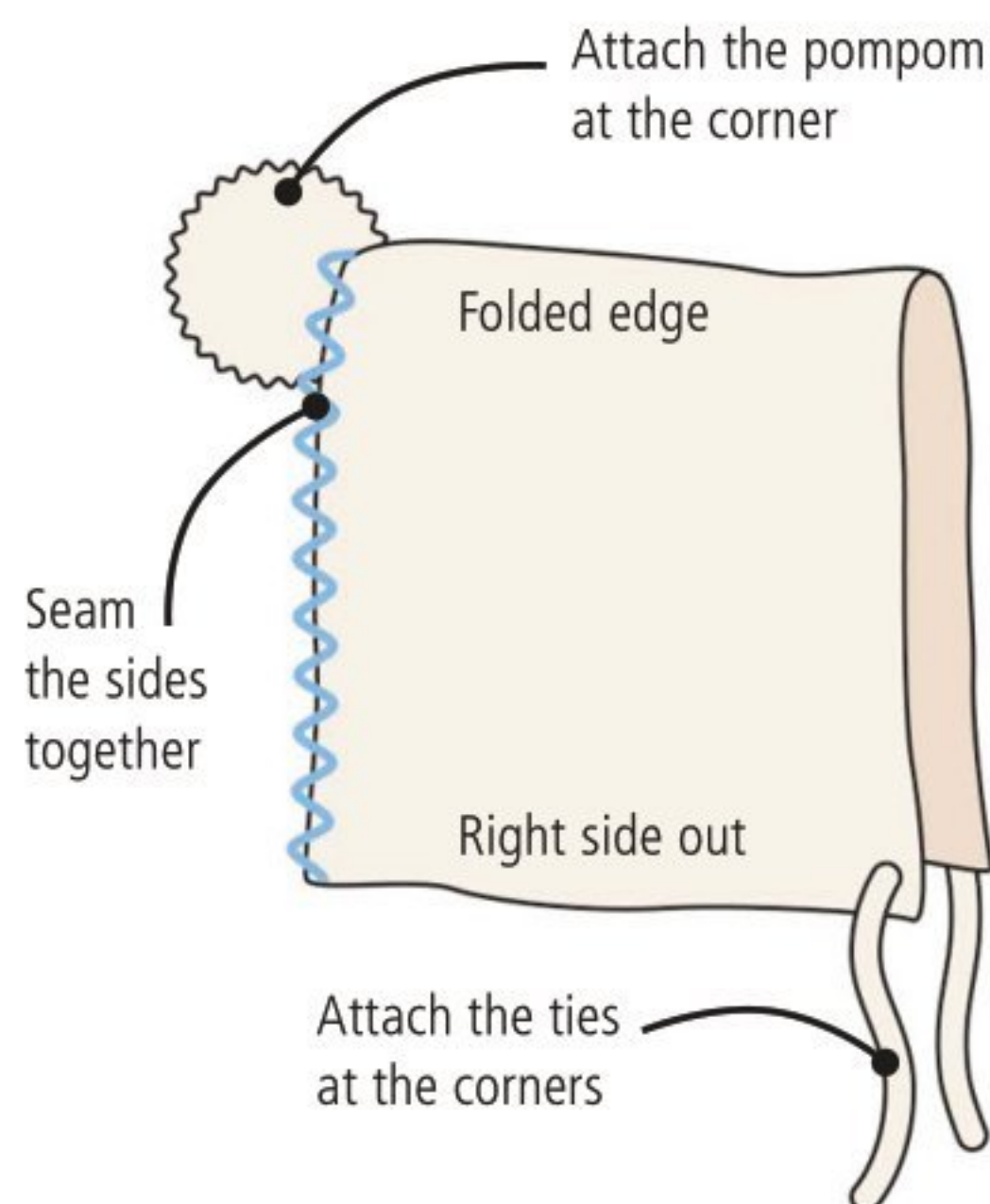


Figure 1 Seam the sides before adding the ties and the pompom.

*tip*

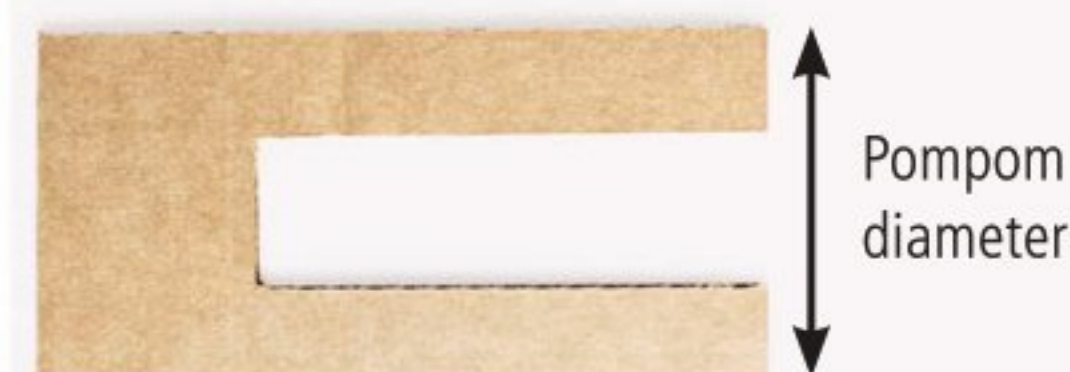
Make the
pom-pom in
a contrasting
color for
a completely
different look.

Making pompons

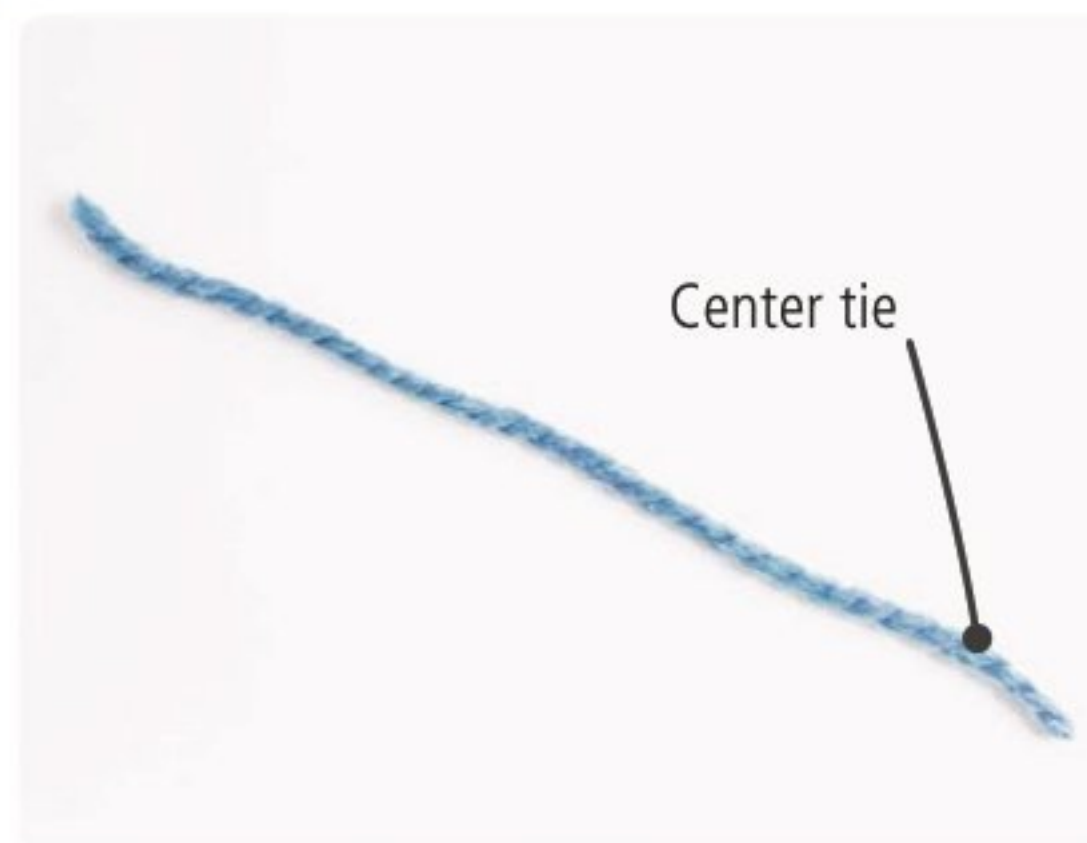
If your project needs a little something extra, consider adding a pompon. You can make one in less than 15 minutes. The more you wrap in step 4, the better your finished pompon will look. To attach it to your project, pass a needle threaded with yarn through the center tie holding the pompon together.

What you'll need

- Small cardboard scrap
- Scissors
- Yarn
- Tapestry needle



1 Decide how wide you'd like your pompon. Cut a piece of cardboard 6 inches (15cm) wide by the desired diameter of the pompon. Cut an opening from one short edge to the center, reaching about three quarters of the way down the length.



2 Cut a 10-inch (25cm) length of yarn and set it aside. You'll use this center tie in step 5.



5 Insert the center tie from step 2 through the space in the cardboard and then tie it tightly around the wrapped yarn.

Size considerations

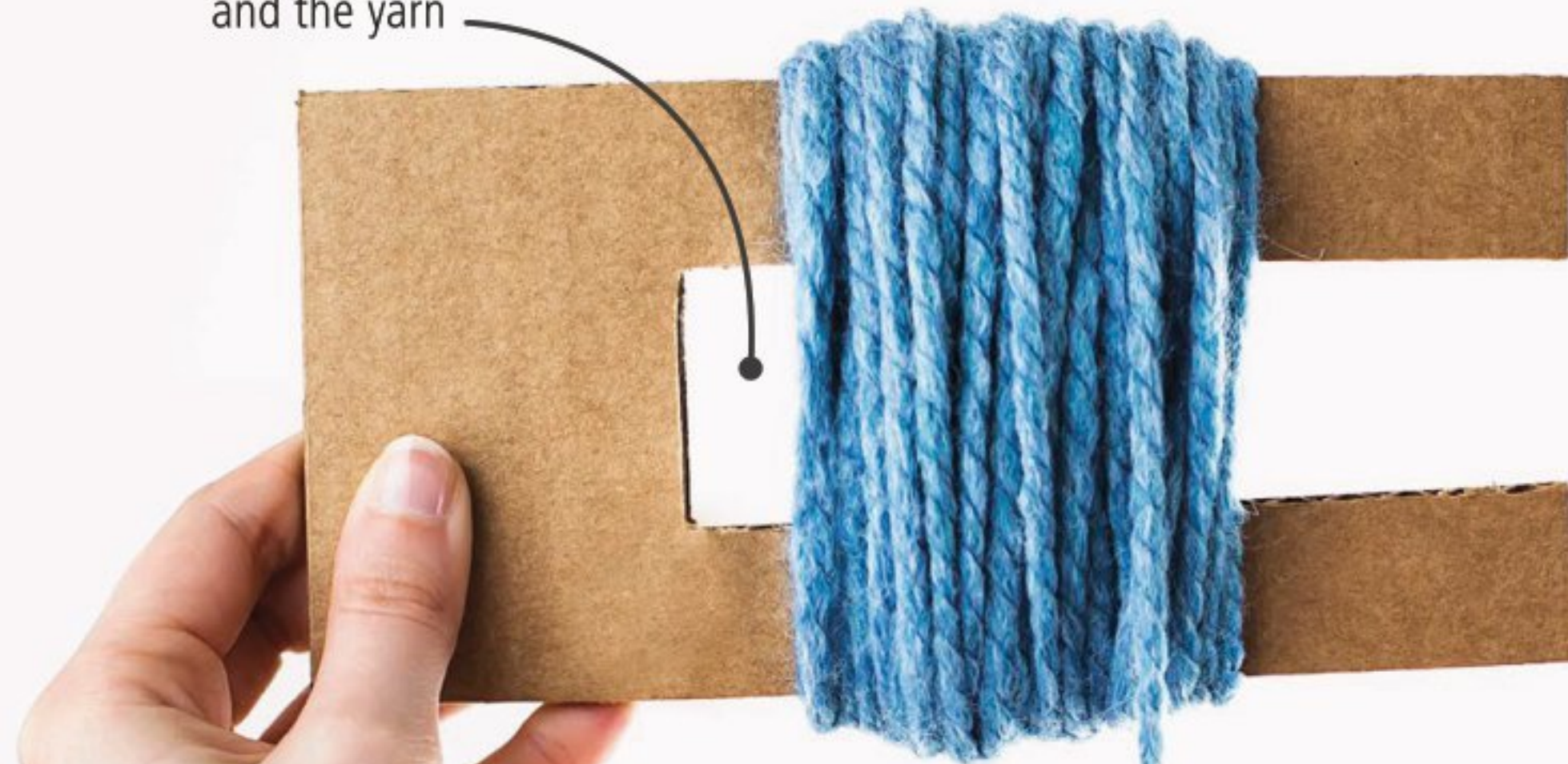
For a pompom 2 inches (5cm) in diameter, cut the cardboard 6 inches (15cm) wide and 2 inches (5cm) tall. The taller the cardboard, the larger the pompom will be. If you want to make a smaller pompom, you can substitute a fork for the cardboard.

Hold the tail with your thumb



3 Place the yarn tail on the cardboard, lining up the end with the edge of the rectangle.

Leave space between the cardboard and the yarn



Keep the tension consistent



4 Wrap the yarn evenly around the cardboard, keeping the same amount of tension as you wrap. The more times you wrap the yarn around, the fuller the pompom will be.



6 Use your scissors to cut the loops on one side of the wrapping. Cut as evenly as possible to ensure all the strands are the same length.



7 Repeat step 6 on the opposite side. Fluff the pompom and then trim around it to make the edges even.



Essential information

Difficulty level

Moderate

Time to make

90 minutes

Finished size

Bag: 17.5 x 11.5 inches
(45 x 29cm)

Handle: 29 inches (74cm)

Materials

100 yards (91m) of 3mm
faux suede lacing

18 inches (46cm) of
a 45-inch-wide (114cm)
unstretched fabric for lining

Thread

Tools

Sewing machine

Sewing needle

Pinking shears

Scissors

Pen or pencil

Ruler

Disappearing ink fabric
marker

Cardboard: 17.5 x 11.5
inches (45 x 29cm)

Iron

Craft knife

Gauge

3 stitches and 2 rows equals
4 inches (10cm).

*This project was made with
faux suede lacing in green,
100 yards (92m), 3mm wide.*

Open-weave bag

Knitting in garter stitch is easy, but suede lacing is challenging to work with and will expand your skill set. Buy it in bulk to avoid having to connect short yardages.

How to make

Bag

1 Cast on 9 stitches, leaving a 30-inch-long (76cm) tail for seaming.

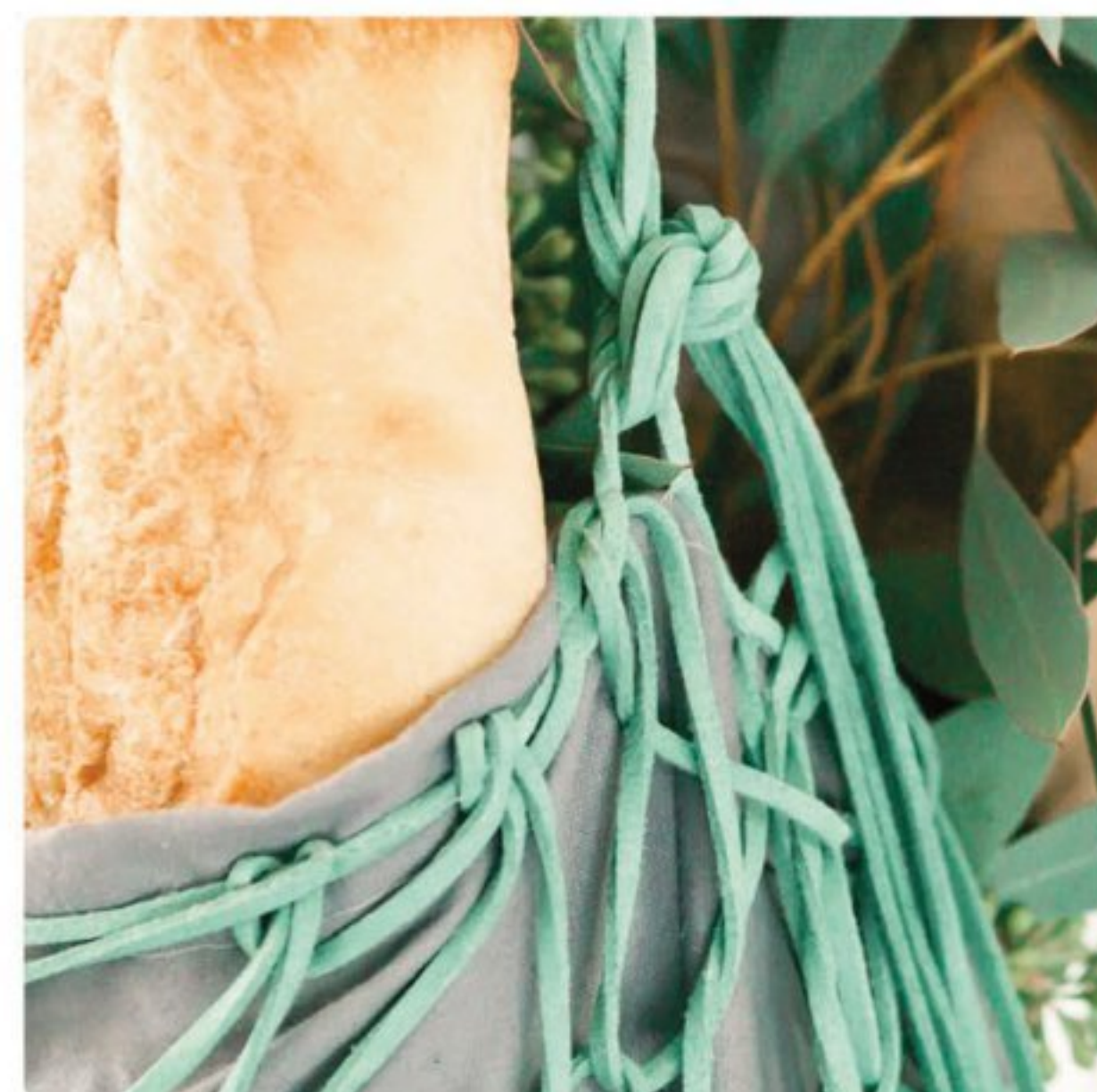
2 Beginning with a knit row, arm knit in garter stitch until the bag measures 35 inches (89cm) long, ending after completing a purl row. Bind off on a knit row, leaving another 30-inch-long (76cm) tail for seaming.

3 Fold the knitting in half lengthwise so the cast-on and bind-off edges meet. You should have a long tail on each top edge. Seam each side by using the long tails left from the cast on and the bind off.

Handle

1 Cut 3 strands of suede lacing that are each 3 yards (2.75m) long.

2 Hold the 3 strands with their ends lined up and then fold them in half, creating a loop. Slip the loop through one of the top edges of the bag where you seamed one of the sides. Slide the tails of the strands through the loop, securing one side of the handle to the bag.



Use a clothespin to hold the unfastened end in place before firmly knotting it. This allows you to make the handle any length you prefer.

3 Braid the tails until the handle measures approximately 29 inches (74cm) long. You should then have a length of fringe remaining.

4 Being careful not to twist the braid, knot it to the opposite side seam.

5 Trim the handle fringe evenly.

Continued ➔

Make the lining

1 Place the bag on top of the piece of cardboard. Grasp the top and bottom edges, pulling the bag to stretch it. Using a pen or pencil, trace around the outside of the bag. Using a ruler, draw straight lines for seam allowance along the lines you sketched, creating a uniform lining template for cutting.

Cut out the template and then insert it into the bag, making sure it fits. If it doesn't, redraw the template, adding or subtracting width or length as necessary.

2 Fold the fabric in half, with the right sides together, keeping the selvages together. Place the template on top of the fabric, lining up the bottom edge of the template with the fold of the fabric.

Using a fabric marker or tailor's chalk, add seam allowances of 1 inch (3cm) to one side of the fabric and also to the top. Trace right against the edge of the other side of the template.

Cut out the fabric on the ruler you drew.

3 Sew the side seams of the lining using a 1/2-inch (1.3cm) seam allowance, as shown in Figure 1. Finish the seams with pinking shears to prevent unraveling.

4 Fold the top of the lining over 1/2 inch (1.3cm). Press with an iron. Fold over 1/2 inch (1.3cm) again. Press again with an iron.

5 Stitch around the top edge of the lining a bit less than 1/2 inch (1.3cm) from the edge.

If you want to make the bag sturdier, you can use a more durable material, like rope, or even hold multiple strands of yarn together.

Attach the lining

1 Turn the lining right side out, inserting it inside the bag and pinning it in place.

2 Use a sewing machine to sew around the top of the lining, catching as much of the suede as possible under the needle while securing the lining to the bag.

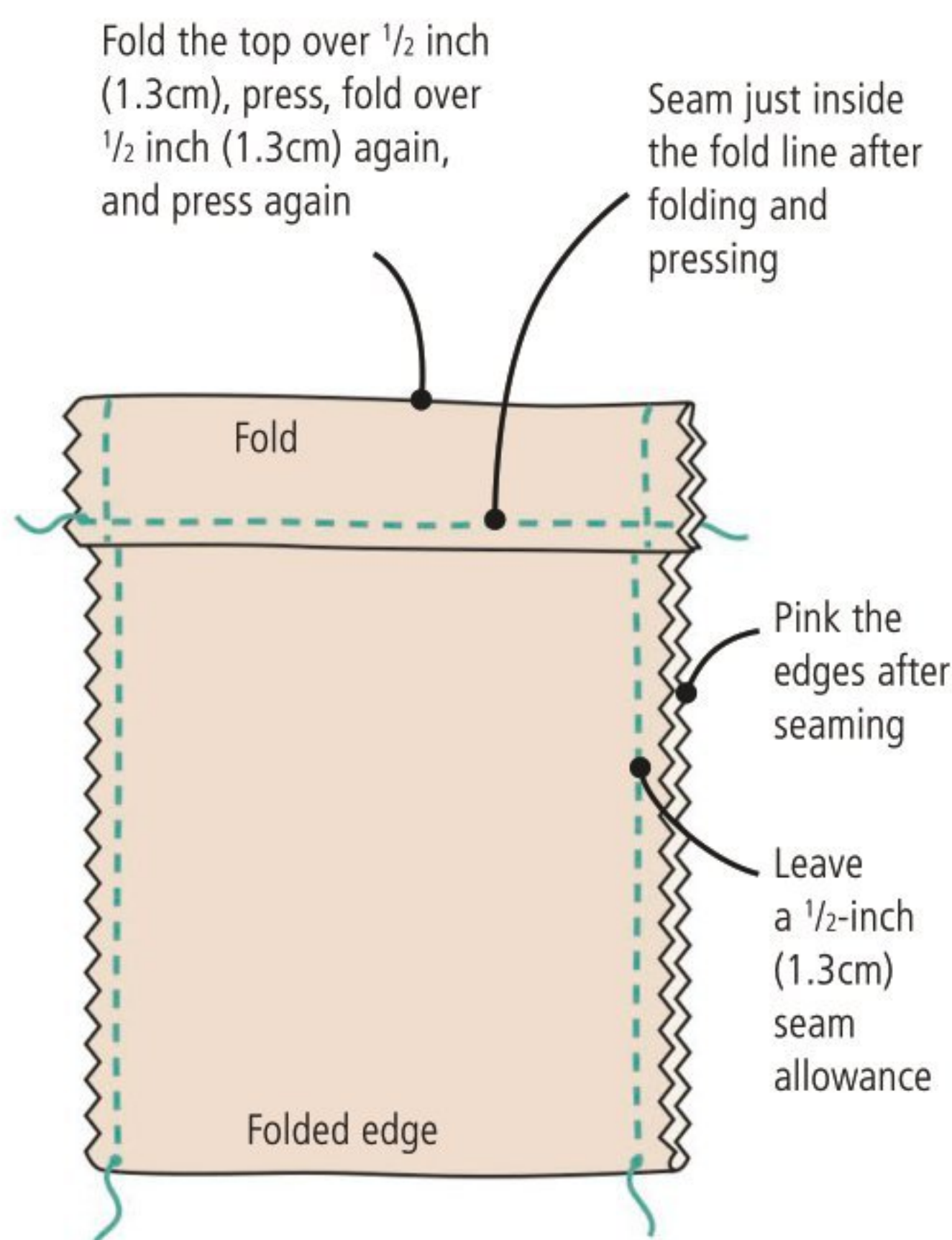


Figure 1 This is how the lining should look before you turn it right side out and put it inside the bag.



*tip*

This bag isn't designed to hold heavy items. Check the label for how much weight the suede can support.

Essential information

Difficulty level

Moderate

Time to make

2 hours

Finished size

36- to 40-inch
(91 to 102cm) chest

Materials

140 yards (128m) or
8 pounds (3.6kg) of
hand-dyed merino wool
roving for arm knitting

120 yards (110m) or
4 ounces (113g) of 1 skein
of bulky 100% merino
wool yarn for sewing

Tools

Felting needle

Scissors

Gauge

1.5 stitches and 2 rows
equals 4 inches (10cm).

*This project was made with:
4 balls of UrbanGypZ
hand-dyed roving in
Wild Raspberry,
35 yards (32m).*

*1 skein of UrbanGypZ
Bulky 3-ply yarn in
Wild Raspberry,
120 yards (110m).*

Plush sweater

Roving creates mega stitches for this cropped top. It can take weeks to knit a sweater with needles. That's not the case with this design—guaranteed!

How to make

Front and back (work both the same)

- 1** Cast on 8 stitches.
- 2** Arm knit 9 rows.
- 3** Bind off all the stitches.

Sleeves (make 2)

- 1** Cast on 7 stitches.
- 2** Arm knit 6 rows.
- 3** Bind off all the stitches.

This sweater might look challenging, but it's quite easy: You knit four rectangular pieces and then assemble them using mattress stitches.



Although roving is delicate, you'll be struck by how sturdy this sweater looks and feels.



tip

Because roving can develop entangled fibers called *neps*, keep your sweater looking tidy by shaving them off with a sweater shaver.



Assemble

1 With the right sides of the back and front facing up, as shown in Figure 1, use a mattress stitch and the bulky yarn to seam 4 inches (10cm) in from each shoulder corner, leaving a 12-inch-wide (30cm) opening for the neck.

2 Find the center stitch at the top of each sleeve, and use yarn to tie each sleeve to the shoulder seam through the center stitch, as shown in Figure 2.

3 Stitch each sleeve to the body by using a mattress stitch. Fold the piece as shown in Figure 3 and then use a mattress stitch to sew the sleeve and side seams.

4 Weave in all the ends.

See the Needle Felting Roving section for more specific instructions.

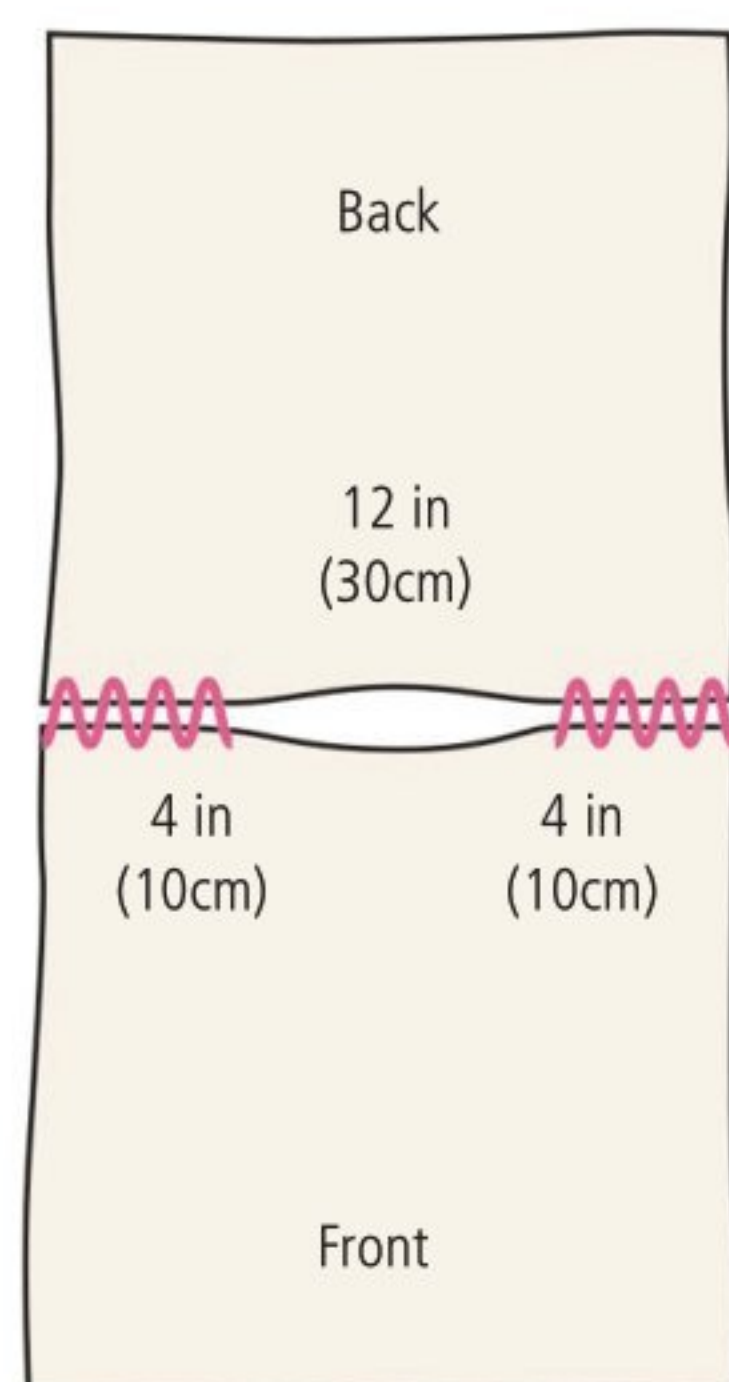


Figure 1 Use a mattress stitch to seam the shoulders, leaving an opening for your neck.

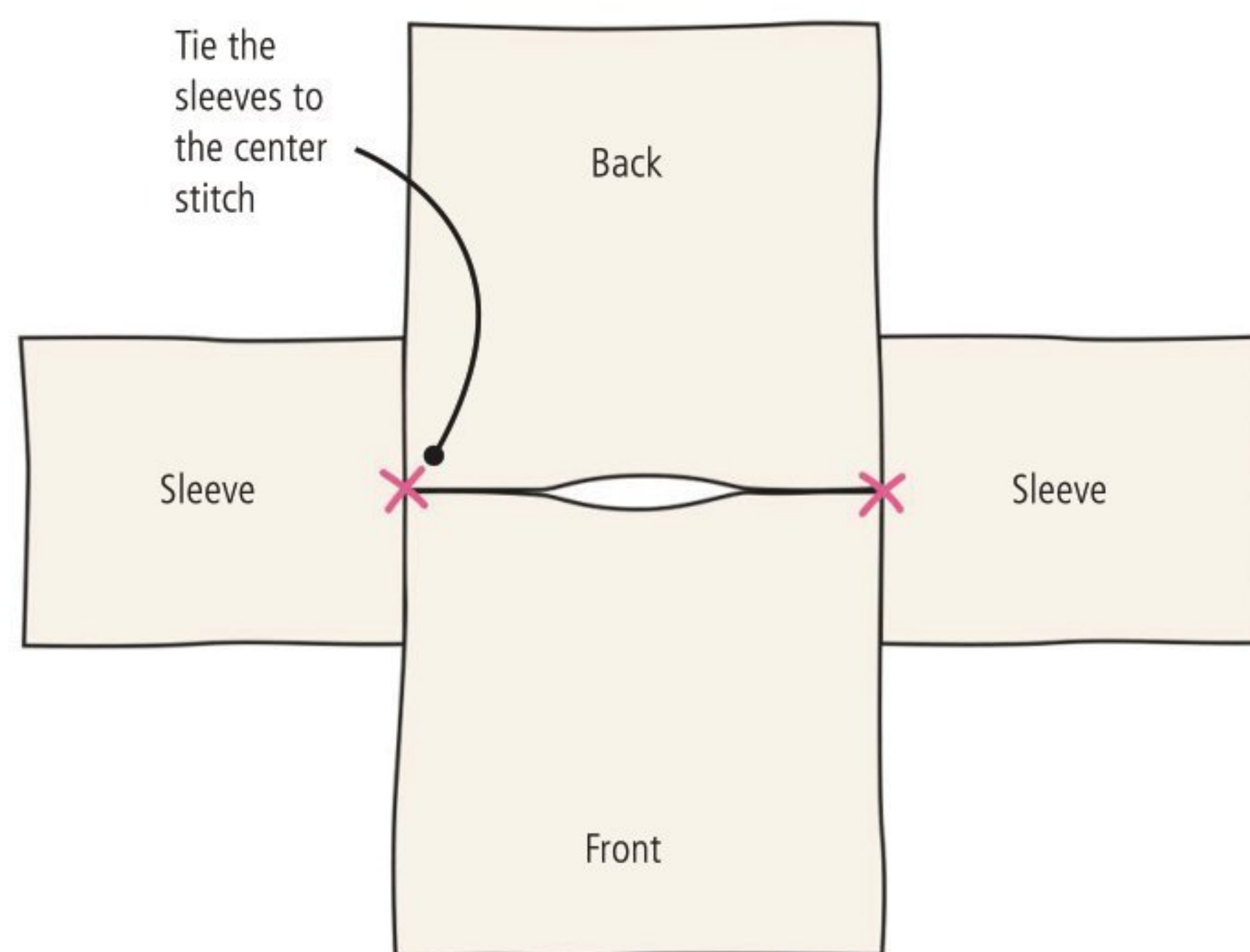


Figure 2 Make sure all the pieces are right side up before tying a sleeve to each shoulder seam.

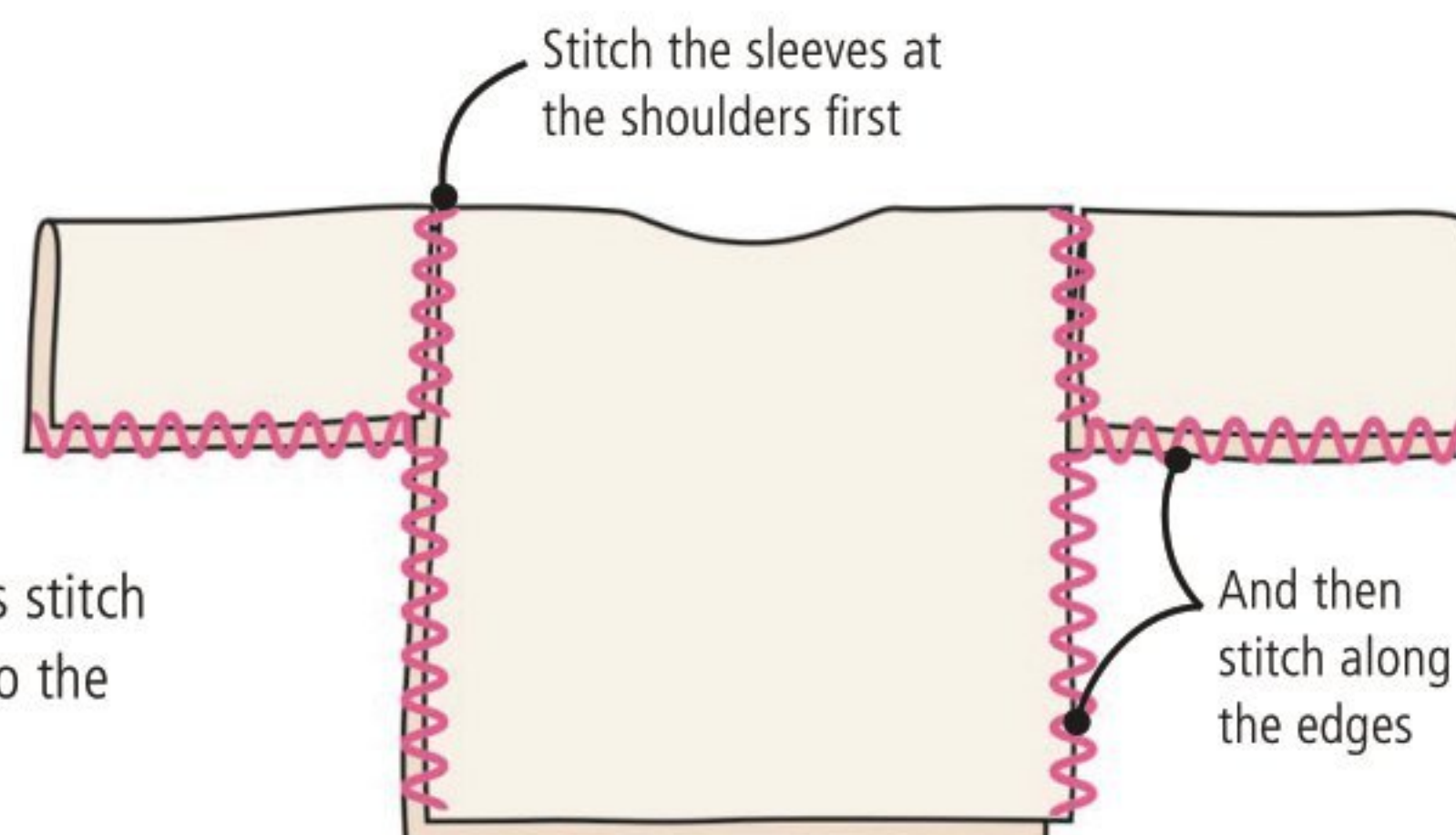


Figure 3 Use a mattress stitch to connect each sleeve to the sweater body.



The background of the entire page is a dense, repeating pattern of stylized, elongated leaf shapes in a vibrant teal color. The leaves are arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and texture, with some leaves appearing more prominent than others.

Home sweet home

From a bed for your four-legged friends
and blankets to wrap yourself in on cold days
to covers for pillows and lampshades,
these projects will be focal points for any room.

Essential information

Difficulty level

Easy

Time to make

1 hour

Finished size

20 x 30 inches (51 x 76cm)

Materials

352 yards (322m) of super bulky yarn, with 6 strands held together (or 2 strands held together if using the Navajo plying technique)

Tools

Scissors

Gauge

2 stitches and 3.75 rows equals 4 inches (10cm).

This project was made with 4 skeins of Premier Craft-Tee Yarn in Blue Shades, 88 yards (81m).

Doormat

Super stretchy T-shirt yarn yields a hardy doormat that feels extra plush. Create your own T-shirt yarn to almost completely make this doormat with your own hands.

How to make

Doormat

1 Cast on 13 stitches.

First row: *Knit 1, slip 1 stitch with the yarn held in front. Repeat from * to the last stitch, knit 1.

Second row: Knit 1, *knit 1, slip 1 stitch with the yarn held in front. Repeat from * to the last 2 stitches, knit 2.

2 Repeat the first and second rows until your rug measures approximately 18 inches (46cm) or your desired length.

3 Bind off all the stitches.

4 Weave in and trim all the ends.

See the *Making T-Shirt Yarn* and *Navajo Plying Technique* sections for more specific instructions.



Linen stitches give this doormat a woven look, and you can even change colors every other row to create a different visual effect.

Reserve this doormat for indoor use. Because it's so thick, it won't dry quickly if it becomes wet outside.

*tip*

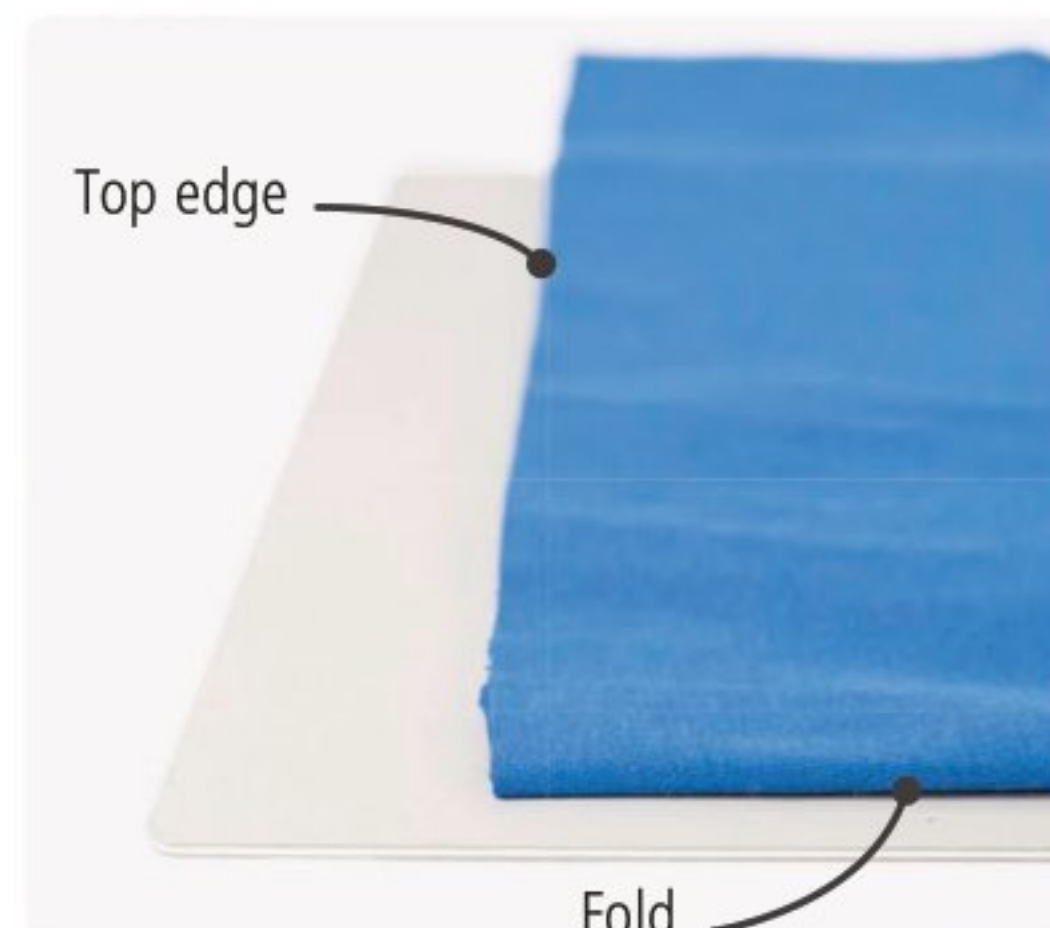
Knitting with 6 strands of T-shirt yarn held together will result in a doormat that can withstand heavy use.

Making T-shirt yarn

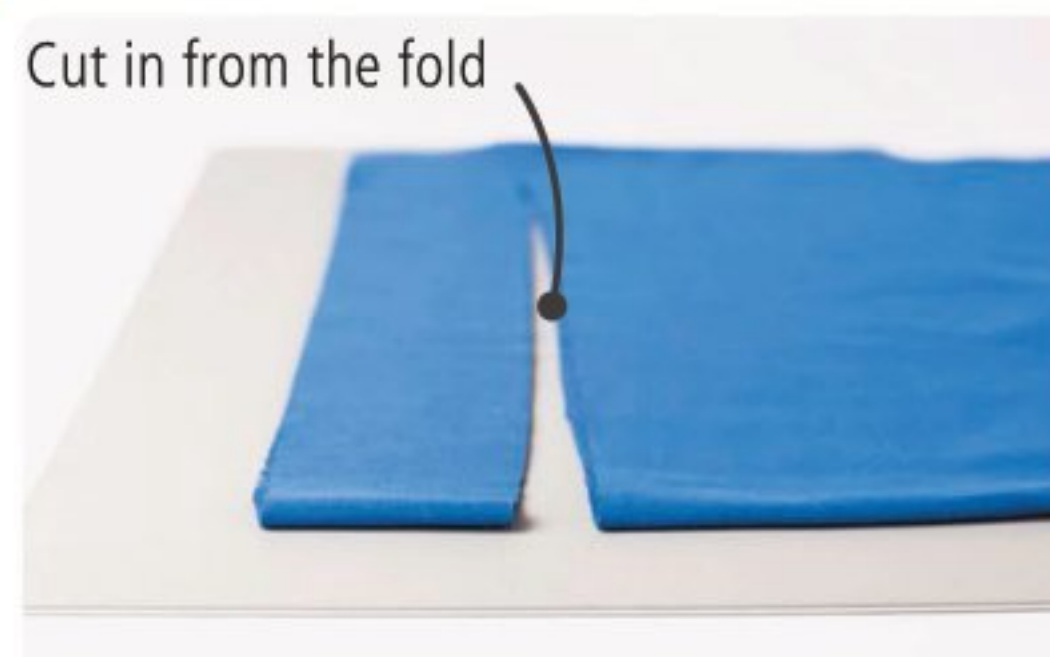
Making your own T-shirt yarn is fun. Different variables, like how much stretch the fabric has and how wide you cut the strips, will determine how much fabric you need to start with to get the amount of yarn required for your project. The wider you cut the strips, the heavier the yarn weight.

What you'll need

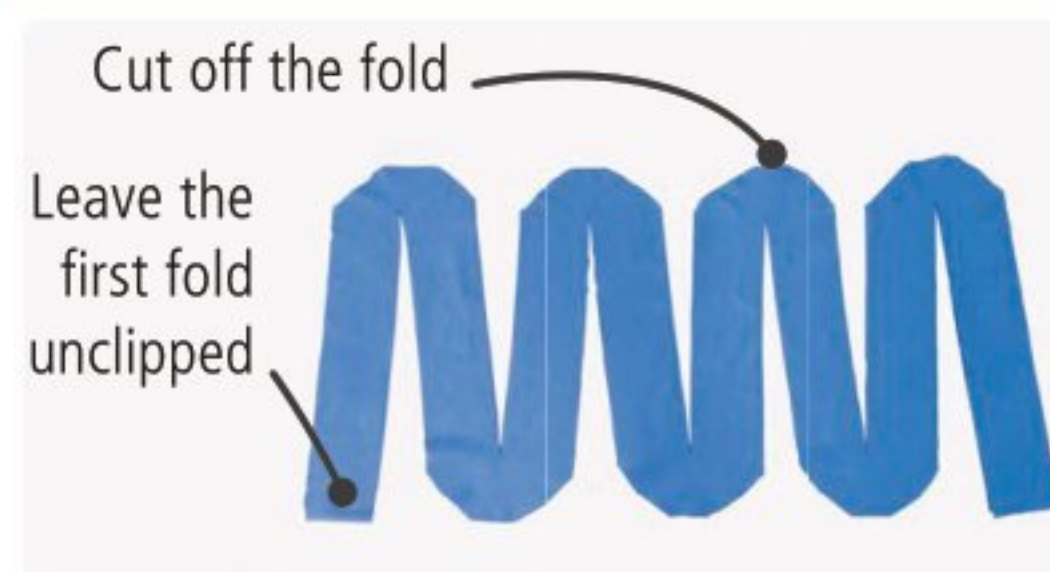
- Several yards (meters) of stretch-knit fabric
- Ruler
- Rotary cutter
- Self-healing cutting mat
- Fabric scissors



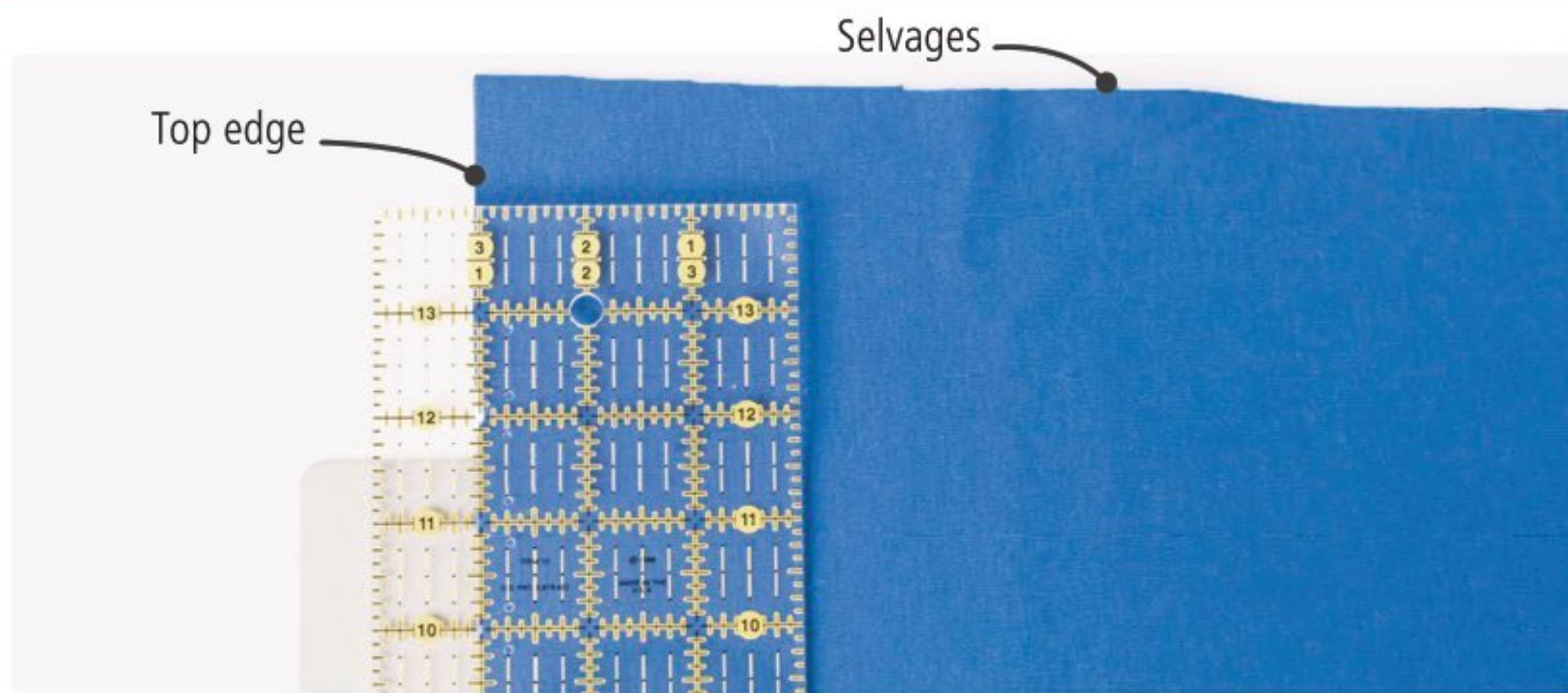
1 Fold the fabric in half on the self-healing cutting mat, with the selvages meeting.



3 Roll the rotary cutter along the edge of the ruler and across the fabric, starting at the fold and stopping about 2 inches (5cm) from the selvages. The cut should be parallel to the fabric's top edge.



6 At the folds and on the edges, use scissors to clip the corners of the cuts into "curves," clipping across all but the first fold. These cuts don't have to look perfect because you won't see them once you stretch out the fabric later.



2 Place the edge of your ruler along the width of the fabric—3 inches (8cm) from the top edge of the fabric and parallel to it.

tip

Stretch-knit fabric is also known as jersey. Use a poly-cotton blend; the polyester will make your T-shirt yarn more durable.



4 Cut the fabric again—3 inches (8cm) from the first cut and parallel to it—but this time starting at the selvages and stopping 2 inches (5cm) from the fold.

The cut width determines the yarn weight



5 Repeat steps 3 and 4 to cut what will look something like zigzags (as the cuts open up) across the entire length of the fabric.



7 You should now have one continuous strand of T-shirt yarn. Gently pull it to stretch it.



8 Roll the entire length of fabric into a ball and then use it as directed for any given T-shirt yarn pattern.

Using actual T-shirts

You can upcycle T-shirts into yarn, but the technique is different from the one described here because T-shirts are tubes of fabric, whereas fabric is a sheet. The advantage of using fabric to make yarn is that depending on how much fabric you start with, it yields far more yarn than an actual T-shirt.

Essential information

Difficulty level

Easy

Time to make

1 hour

Finished size

12 feet (3.7m) long

Materials

310 yards (283m) each of two different colors of bulky yarn, with 4 strands held together

Tools

Scissors

Gauge

4 stitches and 2 rows equals 4 inches (10cm).

This project was made with: 2 balls of Bernat Softee Baby Chunky in Cream Puff, 155 yards (142m).

2 balls of Bernat Softee Baby Chunky in Buttercup, 155 yards (142m).

Pompom garland

Playful décor for a kid's room or a festive accent for parties, this garland spells F-U-N. Make it as long as you like—striped or solid—and include cheerful pompoms.

How to make

Garland

Divide and rewind both yarn colors into 4 equal balls of each color.

- 1** Cast on 5 stitches of either color.
- 2** Arm knit all the stitches for 12 inches (31cm). Change color and then knit for another 12 inches (31cm). Continue until the garland is your desired length, changing colors every 12 inches (31cm).
- 3** Bind off all the stitches.
- 4** Leave the tails at both ends intact to use them for hanging the garland. Weave in the rest of the ends or you can snip the ends short.

Pompoms

Make 2 pompoms (either in one color or two colors) and then tie a pompom to each end of the garland with separate strands of yarn.

See the Making Pompoms section for more specific instructions.



Leaving tails at the ends will give you ways to hang the garland.

For an even more festive garland, weave a string of party lights into the strands to create a decoration that sparkles and glows!

*tip*

To help retain the ropelike shape of the knitted garland, give it a firm tug as you work and before you hang it.



When seaming the edges together, pull them taut to close the seam, but don't pull so tightly that the edges bunch up.

Essential information

Difficulty level

Easy

Time to make

1 hour

Finished size

16 x 16 inches (41 x 41cm)

Materials

Color A: 90 yards (82m) of roving (or use super bulky yarn, with 4 strands held together)

Color B: 90 yards (82m) of roving (or use super bulky yarn, with 4 strands held together)

16-inch (41cm) pillow form or throw pillow

Tools

Scissors

Felting needle

Gauge

2 stitches and 2 rows equals 4 inches (10cm).

*This project was made with:
1 ball of Cloudborn Fibers
Highland Roving in Stormy
Skies, 90 yards (82m).*

*1 ball of Cloudborn Fibers
Highland Roving in Dolphin
Blue, 90 yards (82m).*

Two-toned pillow cover

This pillow cover offers practice with seaming. Using roving means a soft texture. Make a pair, choosing roving or yarn colors that coordinate with your décor.

How to make

Divide each roving/yarn color into 4 balls.

First piece

1 Cast on 8 stitches with color A.

2 Arm knit 7 rows.

3 Bind off, leaving a 20-inch-long (51cm) tail for seaming.

Second piece

1 Cast on 8 stitches with color B.

2 Arm knit 7 rows.

3 Bind off, leaving a 20-inch-long (51cm) tail for seaming.

Assemble

1 Place the two pieces side by side, with the right sides up.

2 Using one of the long tails you left earlier, seam one side of the pieces together with a mattress stitch.

3 Place the two pieces' wrong sides together and then sew the top and bottom edges together.

4 Weave in all the loose ends, except for the remaining seaming tail.

5 Turn the piece right side out and then slip the pillow form inside.

6 Seam the final edge of the two pieces together using the remaining seaming tail and a mattress stitch. You might have to pull on the edges a little to get them to come together.

7 Weave in or needle felt any remaining roving/yarn.

See the Needle Felting Roving section for more specific instructions.

You can customize this pattern to fit any square or rectangular pillow.

Essential information

Difficulty level

Easy

Time to make

30 minutes

Finished size

13 x 25 inches (33 x 64cm)

Materials

100 feet (31m) of $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch (.5cm) nylon rope

Tools

Scissors

Gauge

2 stitches and 3.75 rows equals 4 inches (10cm).

This project was made with nylon rope in white, 100 feet (30m), $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch (.5cm) in diameter.

Mini hammock

Looking for a way to showcase a stuffed animal collection? This hammock can fit in corners or along walls, offering ways to keep toys off the floor but still within reach.

How to make

Hammock

- 1 Cast on 10 stitches, leaving a 15-inch-long (38cm) tail.
- 2 Arm knit until the piece measures approximately 25 inches (64cm).
- 3 Bind off all the stitches, and trim the ends to approximately 15 inches (38cm).

Hanging mechanism

Loop the end through the opposite side of the hammock from where the rope is currently attached so the rope is doubled. Tie the end of the rope to the spot where the yarn is coming from. This section of doubled rope creates “handles” you can attach to the walls or the ceiling for hanging the hammock.



This hammock is best used for light toys—despite being made with nylon rope—and it’s definitely not sturdy enough to hold people.

If you’d like a less open look to your hammock, use a thicker rope. This will also make the hammock stronger and able to hold larger toys or items.

*tip*

You can make this hammock larger by casting on more stitches and then arm knitting for a little while longer.

*tip*

Use a bolster pillow slightly smaller than the cover's finished size to help make the cover look more plump.

Essential information

Difficulty level

Easy

Time to make

30 minutes

Finished size

15 x 7 inches (38 x 18cm)

Materials

36 yards (33m) each of at least five different yarns, with all strands held together

Bolster pillow:

14.75 x 6 inches (38 x 15cm)

Tools

Tapestry needle

Scissors

Gauge

1.75 stitches and 1.5 rows equals 4 inches (10cm).

This project was made with:

2 balls of Big Twist Yarns Natural Blend in Aged Brass, 98 yards (90m).

1 ball of Lion Brand Yarns Wool-Ease Thick & Quick in Butterscotch, 106 yards (97m).

1 ball of Lion Brand Yarns Heartland in Yellowstone, 251 yards (230m).

1 ball of Lion Brand Yarns Heartland in Bryce Canyon, 251 yards (230m).

1 skein of Lion Brand Yarns Homespun in Golden, 185 yards (169m).

1 skein of Buttercream Luxe Craft Rainbow Boucle in Mardi Gras, 621 yards (568m).

Bolster pillow cover

Combining complementary yarns adds visual texture to this quick knit project. You'll love how such a vibrant pillow cover can have a huge impact on any room design.

How to make

Pillow cover

- 1** Cast on 12 stitches.
- 2** Arm knit 12 rows.
- 3** Bind off all the stitches.

Assemble

- 1** With 1 strand of sturdy but plain yarn for seaming, use a mattress stitch to seam the two sides together—with the knit side of the piece on the inside and the purl side on the outside.
- 2** Thread a double length of the seaming yarn through all the cast-on stitches.
- 3** Close the cast-on end by using a double length of the seaming yarn and threading that yarn through all the cast-on stitches.
- 4** Insert the bolster pillow completely into the knitted piece via the bind-off end.



When you hold the different yarns together before arm knitting, they should feel as thick or thicker than a super bulky yarn.

- 5** Cinch the cast-on edge opening closed by pulling the yarn and securing it to hold the stitches tightly.
- 6** Repeat closing the cast-on end and cinching the cast-on edge opening closed for the bind-off end.
- 7** Weave in all the ends.

Using thinner yarns or fewer strands will allow more of the bolster pillow to show.

tip

Find an ideal place to comfortably hold this huge blanket as you arm knit it.



Essential information

Difficulty level

Easy

Time to make

2 hours

Finished size

Double blanket:
76 x 80 inches
(193 x 203cm)

Materials

Double blanket:
300 yards (274m) or
15 pounds (7kg) of raw,
unspun merino wool
roving with a 23-micron
count (or use giant yarn
in the same amount)

Tools

Scissors

Gauge

1⅓ stitches and 1⅓ rows
equals 4 inches (10cm) or
3 inches (8cm) per stitch.

*This project was made with
1 ball of Intreccio Giant
Merino roving in Sea Foam,
300 yards (274m).*

Snuggly blanket

This is no ordinary blanket! You have the option to make it really large—as a double blanket—but if that feels too big, make a smaller size: twin or lap.

How to make

Double blanket (shown)

- 1** Cast on 25 stitches.
- 2** Arm knit in stockinette stitch for 26 rows, until your desired length is reached, or until you run out of yarn, making sure to unravel your last row to prevent having a partial row.
- 3** Bind off all the stitches.
- 4** Weave in all the ends. For extra security, consider needle felting the ends.

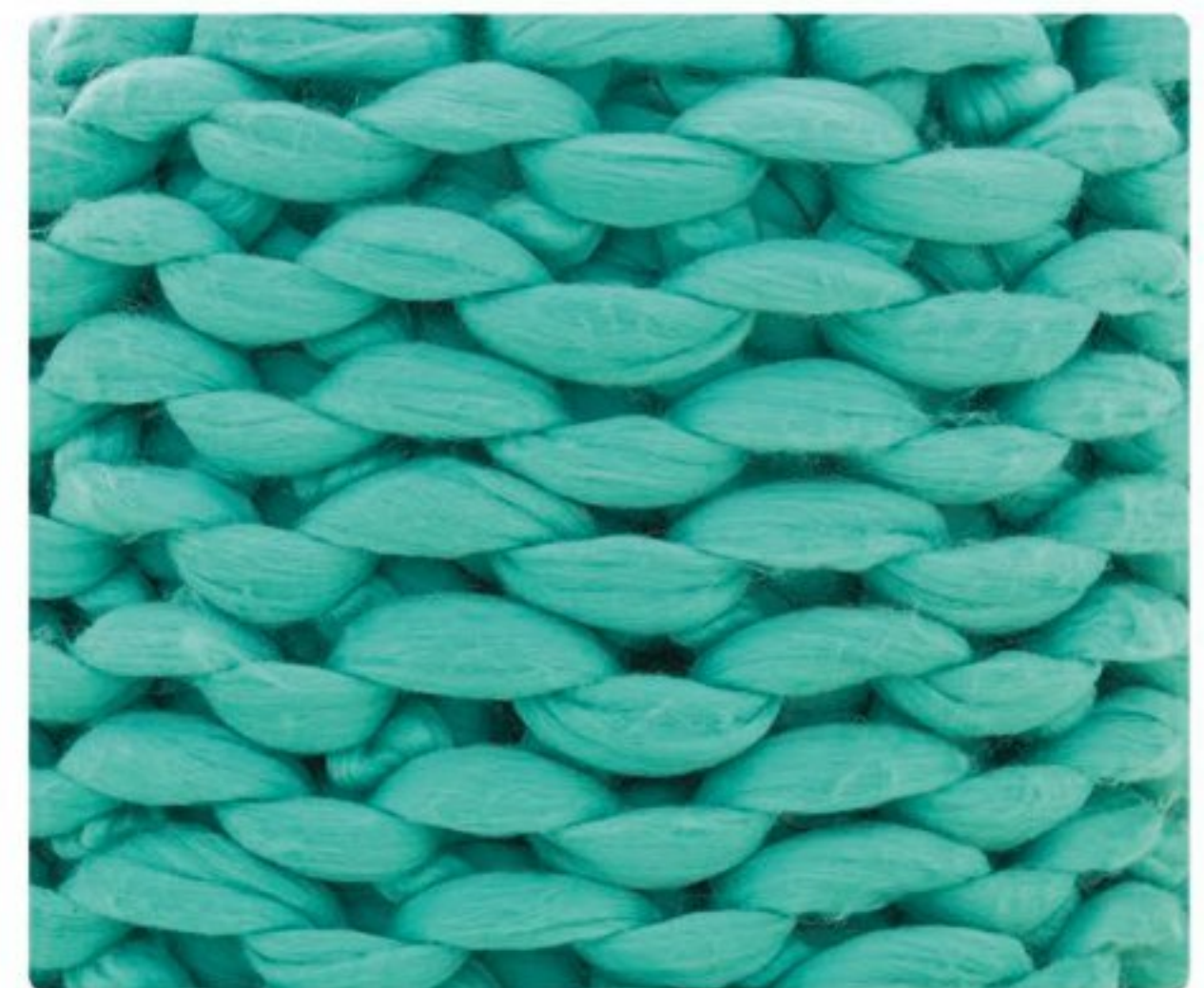
See the Needle Felting Roving section for more specific instructions.

Twin blanket

Finished size: 40 x 76 inches
(102 x 193cm)

Materials: 225 yards (206m) or 11 pounds (5kg) of roving (or giant yarn)

Knit count: 14 stitches x 25 rows



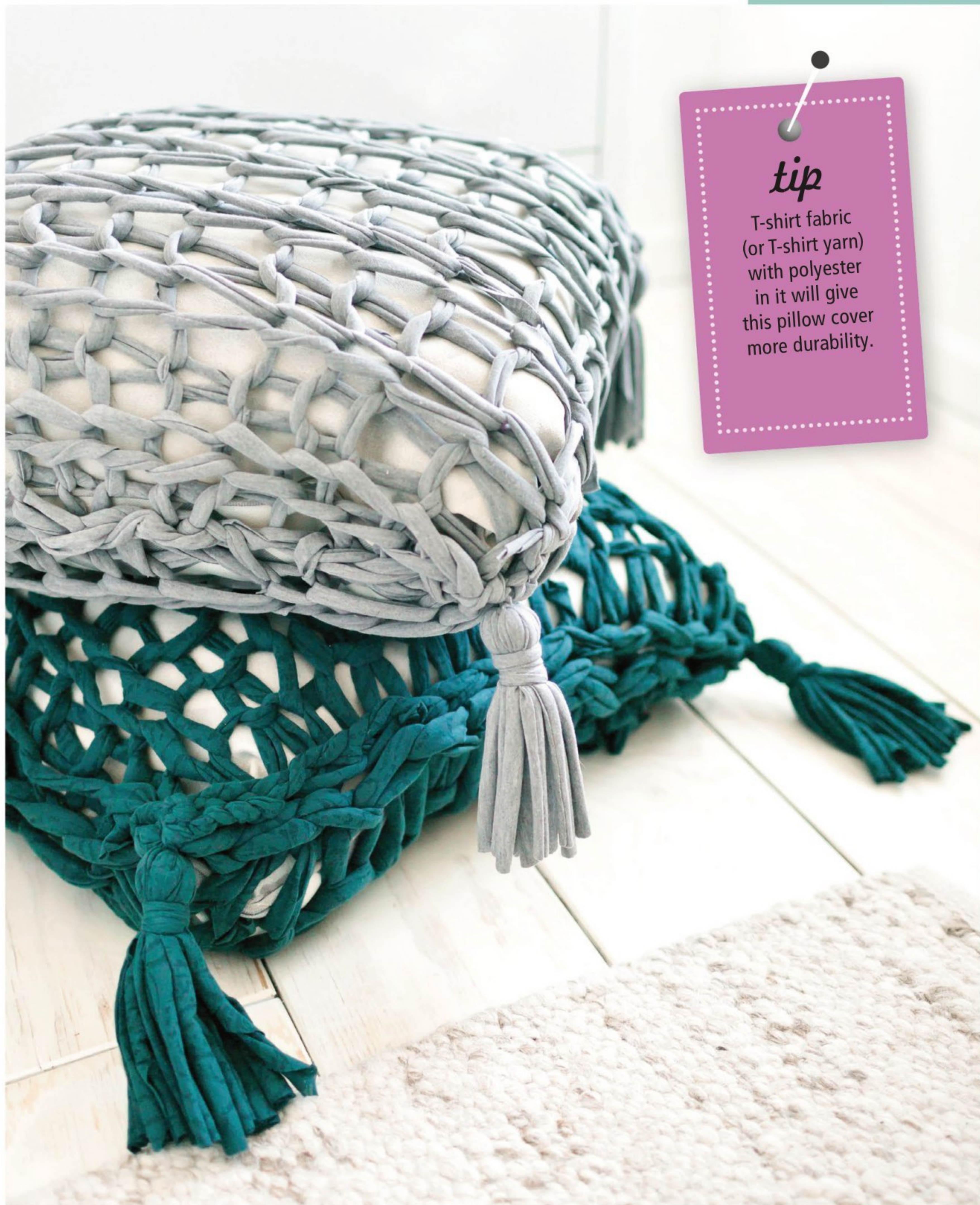
Even the back side of this huge blanket showcases an attractive stitch pattern.

Lap blanket

Finished size: 36 x 45 inches
(91 x 114cm)

Materials: 150 yards (137m) or 7.5 pounds (3.4kg) of roving (or giant yarn)

Knit count: 12 stitches x 14 rows

*tip*

T-shirt fabric
(or T-shirt yarn)
with polyester
in it will give
this pillow cover
more durability.

Essential information

Difficulty level

Easy

Time to make

2 hours

Finished size

24 x 24 x 10 inches
(61 x 61 x 25cm)

Materials (makes 1)

95 yards (87m) of super bulky polyester/cotton blend T-shirt yarn or polyester blend T-shirt yarn for one pillow cover

Floor pillow: 24 inches
(60cm) square

Tools

Tapestry needle

Scissors

Gauge

1.5 stitches and 1.75 rows equals 4 inches (10cm).

This project was made with: Handmade T-shirt yarn in heather gray, 5.5 yards (5m).

Handmade T-shirt yarn in teal, 5.5 yards (5m).

Pillow cover with tassels

Arm knitting is all about scale. And T-shirt yarn produces enormous stitches—ideal for sturdy covers for giant pillows. Immense tassels emphasize the corners.

How to make

Front and back (make 2)

1 Cast on 15 stitches.

Rib stitch row: Slip the first stitch, *purl 1, knit 1, then repeat from * to the end of the row to form a 1 x 1 rib stitch pattern.

2 Repeat the rib stitch for 10 more rows.

3 Bind off all 15 stitches in the 1 x 1 rib stitch pattern.

Assemble

1 Place the wrong sides of the back and front together, matching all the edges. Using a mattress stitch, seam together three sides of the cover: one set of sides, then the cast-on edges, and finally the other set of sides.

2 Insert the pillow into the cover.

3 Using a mattress stitch, sew the pillow cover closed at the bind-off edges.

4 Weave in all the ends.



Tassels help the pillow cover and its corners look more polished.

Tassels

Make 4 tassels, with each being 6 inches (15cm) long. Tie or knot a tassel to each of the pillow corners with a separate piece of yarn.

See the Making Tassels section for more specific instructions.

Making tassels

Tassels are simple adornments you can add to anything—from home décor (like pillows) to accessories (like scarves). They look great at the corners of a project but are equally sharp when attached along the length of a side. A tassel takes less than 15 minutes to make.

What you'll need

- A book as tall as the desired length of the finished tassel
- Scissors
- At least 3 yards (2.75m) of yarn



tip

You can make your tassels in a color that matches the project or in a color that will stand out from the project.



3 Cut a 24-inch (61cm) piece of yarn, looping one end and holding it vertically against the tassel's tied end with your thumb.



1 Wrap the yarn around the book 12 times. Cut a piece of yarn 6 inches (15cm) long, and tie it around the wrapped yarn.



2 Cut through the wrapped yarn opposite the tied end.



4 Wrap the long tail of the loop tightly around all the strands three times and then thread the end of the long tail through the loop.



5 Pull the end of the short tail end of the loop to tighten the loop. It should be tucked just beneath the wraps, locking the ends in place. (Tuck the end in if it's not completely camouflaged.)



6 Trim the tassel ends so they're all the same length.

Essential information

Difficulty level

Easy

Time to make

45 minutes

Finished size

45 x 15 inches
(114 x 38cm)

Materials

210 yards (192m) of super bulky yarn, with 3 strands held together

Pot or planter: 17.5 inches (45cm) tall and 62 inches (158cm) in circumference

Tools

Scissors

Plastic clips for assembly

Gauge

4 stitches and 2 rows equals
4 inches (10cm).

This project was made with 3 balls of Red Heart Mixology in Ivory, 70 yards (64m).

Planter cover

Chunky seed stitches give this highly textured piece a woven appearance. Not only does this cover liven up any plain pot, but it also adds a subtle focus to a room.

How to make

Cover

1 Cast on 10 stitches.

First row: Knit the first stitch. Purl the next stitch. Repeat this knit-purl sequence for the remainder of the row.

Second row: Create the seed stitch by purling the knit stitches and knitting the purl stitches.

2 Repeat the first and second rows until the piece measures approximately 45 inches (114cm).

3 Bind off all the stitches, leaving an 18-inch-long (46cm) tail.

4 Seam the cast-on and bind-off edges together by using a whip stitch.

Drawstrings

1 Cut two strands of matching yarn—each one measuring twice the pot's circumference.

2 Along one edge of the cover, beginning at the seam, weave one of the strands around that entire edge of the piece to create a drawstring for the top edge.

3 Along the other edge, beginning at the seam, weave the other strand around that entire edge of the piece to create a drawstring for the bottom edge.



Drawstrings allow you to adjust the cover size for planters with different circumferences.

Assemble

1 Stretch the cover around the pot, using plastic clips as needed to help hold the cover in place.

2 Pull the top drawstring tightly and then tie a strong knot to secure the cover in place. Firmly pull and stretch the cover downward and then pull the bottom drawstring tightly to secure the bottom part. If the plant pot has a tapered bottom, the bottom can be pulled tighter than the top to fit. Knot tightly.

3 Weave in all the ends.

*tip*

You can match the yarn color to your planter or to the flowering plant's color. Or be bold and use a contrasting color.

tip

Flip the throw
over to reveal
the completely
different texture
of the reverse
stockinette side.



Essential information

Difficulty level

Easy

Time to make

90 minutes

Finished size

60 x 65 inches
(152 x 165cm)

Materials

954 yards (872m) of super bulky yarn, with 2 strands held together

Tools

Scissors

Gauge

4 stitches and 2 rows equals 4 inches (10cm).

This project was made with 9 balls of Lion Brand Yarns Wool-Ease Thick & Quick in Glacier, 106 yards (97m).

Soft fringed throw

Loose stitches make this throw easy to create—perfect for a super quick gift. Each side has a different stitch texture—knit on one and reverse stockinette on the other.

How to make

Throw

- 1** Cast on 50 stitches.
- 2** Arm knit all the stitches until the throw measures 55 inches (140cm).
- 3** Bind off all the stitches.
- 4** Weave in all the ends.

Fringe

Cut 2 strands of yarn—each approximately 10 inches (25cm) long—and then make a 5-inch (13cm) fringe evenly along the throw's top and bottom edges.

See the Making Fringe section for more specific instructions.



To make the fringe look neater, knit it a little longer than needed. After the fringe has been attached, trim across it in a straight line with a pair of sharp scissors.

Try knitting half the throw in one color and the other half in another color for an on-trend color block look.

Essential information

Difficulty level

Easy

Time to make

40 minutes

Finished size

17 inches (43cm) tall
and 88 inches (224cm)
in circumference

Materials

210 yards (192m) of super
bulky yarn, with 3 strands
held together

Lampshade: 14 inches
(36cm) tall and 28 inches
(71cm) in diameter

Tools

Scissors

Large plastic clips

Gauge

4 stitches and 2 rows
equals 4 inches (10cm).

*This project was made with
3 balls of Red Heart
Mixology in Grey,
70 yards (64m).*

Lampshade cover

Clean lines in neutral tones make this cover bold and modern. Mount it wrong side out on an oversized lampshade to showcase the reverse stockinette stitch.

How to make

Cover

- 1 Cast on 9 stitches.
- 2 Arm knit all the stitches until the piece measures approximately 80 inches (203cm). It will be a little smaller than the lampshade's circumference and height because the cover will be stretched open when it's attached. To change the cover's circumference, knit fewer or more rows according to the gauge.
- 3 Bind off all the stitches, leaving an 18-inch-long (46cm) tail.
- 4 Seam the cast-on and bind-off edges together by using a whip stitch.
- 5 Weave in all the ends.

Drawstrings

- 1 Cut two pieces of matching yarn, making each one measure twice the shade's circumference.
- 2 Along one edge of the cover and beginning at the seam, weave one of the strands around that entire edge. This becomes the top edge.

- 3 Repeat that weaving process for the opposite edge. This becomes the cover's bottom edge.

- 4 Place the cover onto the shade, with the back of the piece facing out, stretching it so it completely covers the lampshade. (Showing the reverse stockinette side gives the cover a grid-like texture.) Use clips as needed to help hold the cover in place as it's fitted.

- 5 Pull the top drawstring tightly and then tie a strong knot to secure the cover in place. The drawstring should be hidden from sight inside the top of the shade, so you may need to shift the clips a bit to keep the cover from slipping as it's worked into place.

Pull and stretch the cover firmly downward and then pull the bottom drawstring tightly to secure the bottom part of the lampshade cover, making sure the drawstring is hidden from sight inside the bottom of the shade. Knot tightly.

*tip*

Use large plastic clips to hold the cover in place while attaching it to the lampshade. This will help as you secure the drawstrings.



A drawstring ensures the cover remains securely in place.

tip

A ruler makes
measuring your
fringe easier.
Changing the
length of the fringe
gives the rug
a different vibe.



Essential information

Difficulty level

Easy

Time to make

1 hour

Finished size

32 x 36 inches (81 x 91cm)

Materials

Color A: 296 yards (271m) of super bulky yarn, with 6 strands held together

Color B: 296 yards (271m) of super bulky yarn, with 6 strands held together

Tools

Scissors

Gauge

2 stitches and 3.75 rows equals 4 inches (10cm).

This project was made with: 4 skeins of Premier Mega Tweed in Gray, 74 yards (68m).

4 skeins of Premier Mega Tweed in Mint, 74 yards (68m).

Striped rug with fringe

Making this project gives you a chance to practice adding fringe as well as changing colors after knitting several rows. Pick colors that complement your décor.

How to make

Rug

- 1** Cast on 17 stitches in color A.
- 2** Arm knit 4 rows in color A.
- 3** Switch to color B and then knit 4 rows.
- 4** Repeat steps 2 and 3 two more times.
- 5** Bind off all the stitches.

Fringe

Attach fringe along the top and bottom of the rug. For each fringe, cut a 9-inch-long (23cm) strand of each color. Hold both strands together while attaching the fringe. Trim the fringe evenly to 4 inches (10cm) long.

See the Making Fringe section for more specific instructions.



You can add fringe that incorporates both colors you used for the rug, just one color from the project, or even another color entirely.

Create your own design for this accent rug by varying the length of the stripes or making it a longer runner.

Essential information

Difficulty level

Moderate

Time to make

30 minutes

Finished size

18 x 14 x 5 inches
(46 x 36 x 13cm)

Materials

35 yards (32m) or
2 pounds (907g) of
hand-dyed merino
wool roving

Tools

Scissors

Felting needle

Gauge

1.5 stitches and 2 rows
equals 4 inches (10cm).

*This project was made with
1 ball of UrbanGypZ
hand-dyed roving in
Periwinkle Grey,
35 yards (32m).*

Pet bed

After knitting a rectangle, you'll pick up and bind off stitches to make the bed's sides. Loop the tails through the corners and then tighten them to form a basket.

How to make

Base

- 1** Cast on 6 stitches.
- 2** Arm knit 6 rows.
- 3** Bind off all the stitches.

Sides

Edgings are worked one at a time along each edge of the bed base.

- 1** To make the first edging, pick up 4 center stitches along the bind-off edge of the knitted base, skipping the first and last stitches. Bind off these 4 stitches, leaving at least an 8-inch-long (20cm) tail from the last bind-off stitch.

- 2** To make the next edging, pick up 4 center stitches along the cast-on edge of the knitted base, skipping the first and last stitches. Bind off these 4 stitches, leaving at least an 8-inch-long (20cm) tail.

- 3** To make the side edgings, pick up 3 stitches centered along one side of the base. Bind off these 3 stitches, leaving at least an 8-inch-long (20cm) tail.



Don't worry about shaping this bed—your pet will stretch it to his or her liking.

- 4** Pick up 3 stitches along the other side edge of the base. Bind off these 3 stitches, leaving at least an 8-inch-long (20cm) tail from the last bind-off stitch.

Continued ➔

tip

Merino wool
is the most
common type of
roving commercially
available and
comes in many
different colors.



Finish

Refer to Figure 1 as you work. (It doesn't matter whether the stockinette side faces up.) Using the 8-inch-long (21cm) bind-off tails, connect the two sides of each corner together by looping the tail through the first stitch of the connecting side piece and then tucking the tail back into the last bind-off stitch on the tail side. This creates a seamless edge to the bind off.

Weave in all the ends. Shape the bed so the stockinette side is what's visible inside the bed. If desired, needle felt the ends of the roving for a more secure connection.

See the Needle Felting Roving section for more specific instructions.

Merino roving is exceptionally comfy and snugly—upon discovering this bed, your pet will claim it immediately.

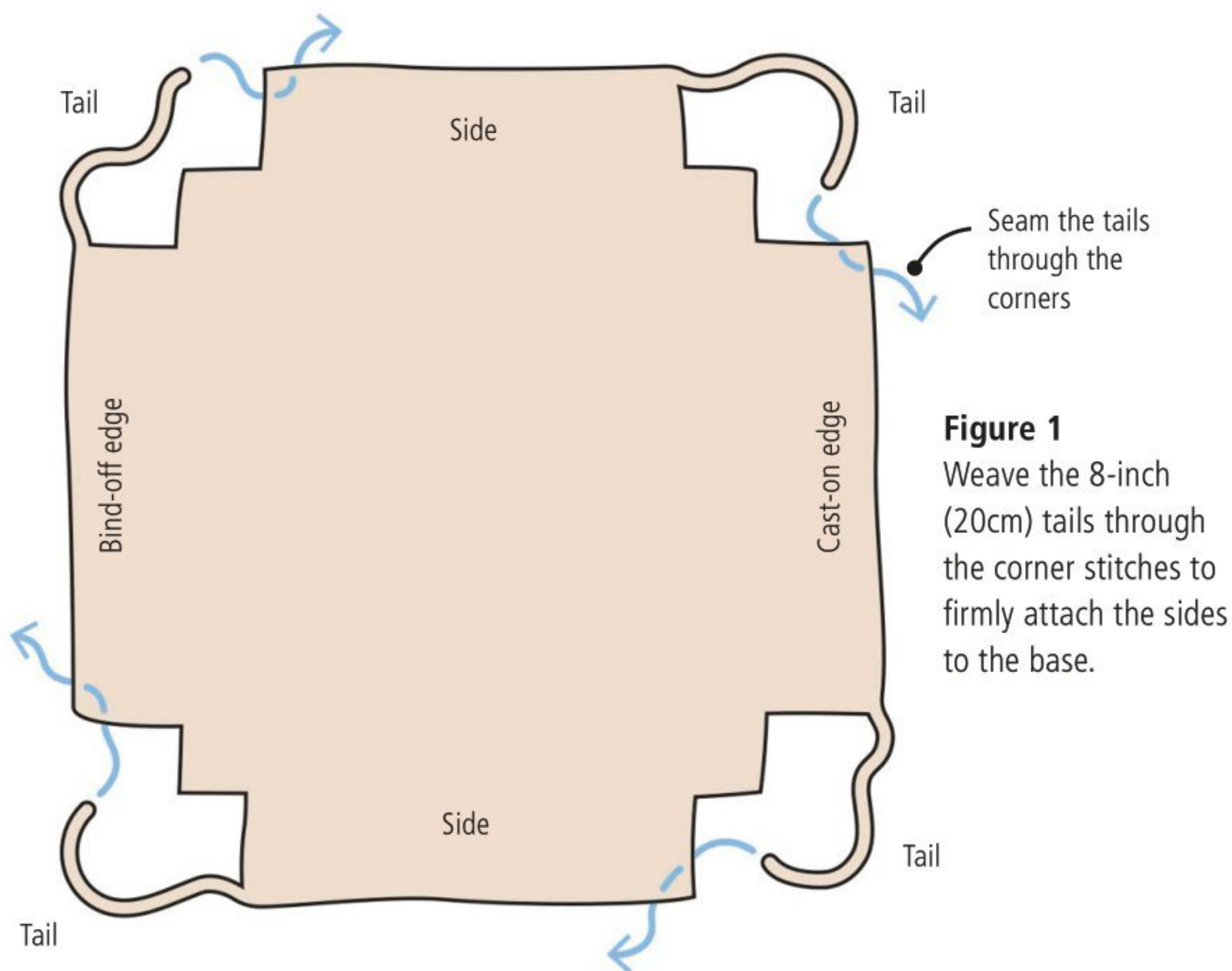


Figure 1

Weave the 8-inch (20cm) tails through the corner stitches to firmly attach the sides to the base.



*tip*

Try other less expensive wool roving for this pet bed, like Corriedale, Shetland, or common domestic roving.

tip

Because this beanbag has several different components, you don't need to make it in one sitting.



Essential information

Difficulty level

Moderate

Time to make

5 hours

Finished size

24 x 24 x 44 inches
(61 x 61 x 110cm)

Materials

657 yards (601m) of 5mm polyester cord, with 3 strands held together

Three buttons:
1.5-inch (4cm) in diameter

One lighter

Two rectangles of fabric for the inner bag: 45 x 25 inches (114 x 64cm) each

Sewing thread to match the inner casing fabric

One 24-inch (61cm) zipper

Filling: 2.5 to 5 cubic feet (.07 to .14cbm) of feathers, polyester fiber, beanbag balls, etc.

Tools

Scissors

Pinking shears

Sewing needle

Sewing machine

Gauge

3 stitches and 5 rows equals 4 inches (10cm).

This project was made with 3 balls of polyester cord in gray, 219 yards (200m).

Beanbag

This beanbag has an unusual shape—the closed ends are perpendicular to each other, not parallel. Hypoallergenic polyester cord is ideal for this project.

How to make

Beanbag

1 Prepare 3 separate balls of cord—each 219 yards (200m) long. Cut 3 yards (3m) of cord from each ball. Set them aside to use to seam the beanbag sides together.

2 Cast on 18 stitches.

3 Arm knit until you run out of cord, ending with a full row. The piece should measure approximately 48 inches (122cm) long.

4 Fold the bind-off edge to meet the cast-on edge, with the right side facing out. (The fold will be the bottom edge of the finished cover.) Use a whip stitch to seam both sides of the beanbag while holding together all three of the

3-yard (3m) cords set aside earlier. Make sure the ends of the cords are properly knotted to the piece so they don't slip loose later.

5 Sew buttons to the right side of the open top edge. Fold the piece so the side seams are one above the other and run along the middle of the work instead of the edges. Evenly space the buttons before attaching them. Sew on the first one along one seam line, with the others about 4 inches (10cm) from it.

6 Weave in any loose ends. Carefully run the tips of each cord through the flame of the lighter to prevent fraying.



Attach the buttons evenly spaced along the opening after arranging the side seams so they're in the middle of the work and one atop the other.

Continued ➔



Inner casing

1 As shown in Figure 1, join the short ends of the pieces of fabric with the zipper. Make sure to center the zipper along the seam, leaving the fabric at either end unsewn.

2 Open the zipper. Turn the pieces of fabric inside out. Pin the long sides and then stitch them, as shown in Figure 2. Finish the seams with pinking shears to prevent unraveling.

3 Fold the fabric as shown in Figure 3, making sure the seams sewn in the previous step are no longer on the sides

but are along the center. Stitch closed the short open end. Finish the seams with pinking shears and then turn the casing right side out.

4 Stuff the casing with your chosen filling and then zip the casing closed, as shown in Figure 4.

Finish

Place the filled casing into the knitted beanbag and then button the beanbag to close it. The buttons can go through any corresponding stitch.

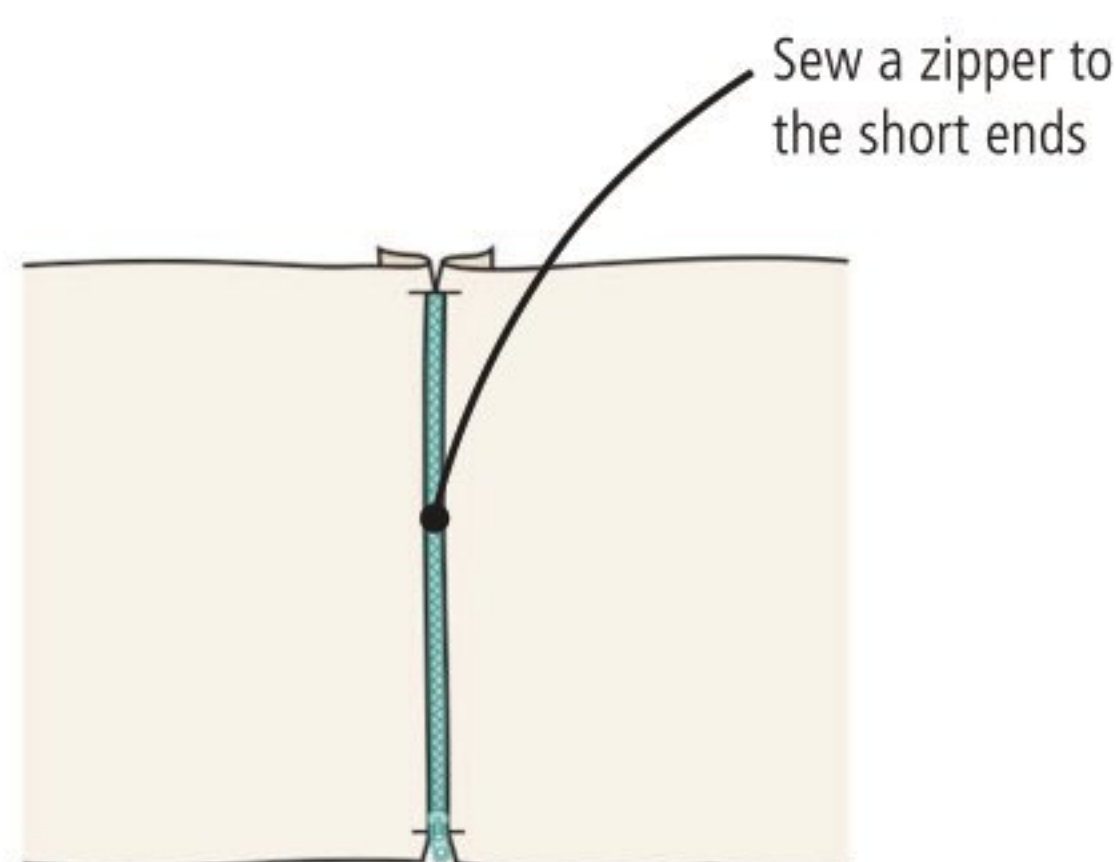


Figure 1 Use a ruler to ensure you center the zipper along the seam.

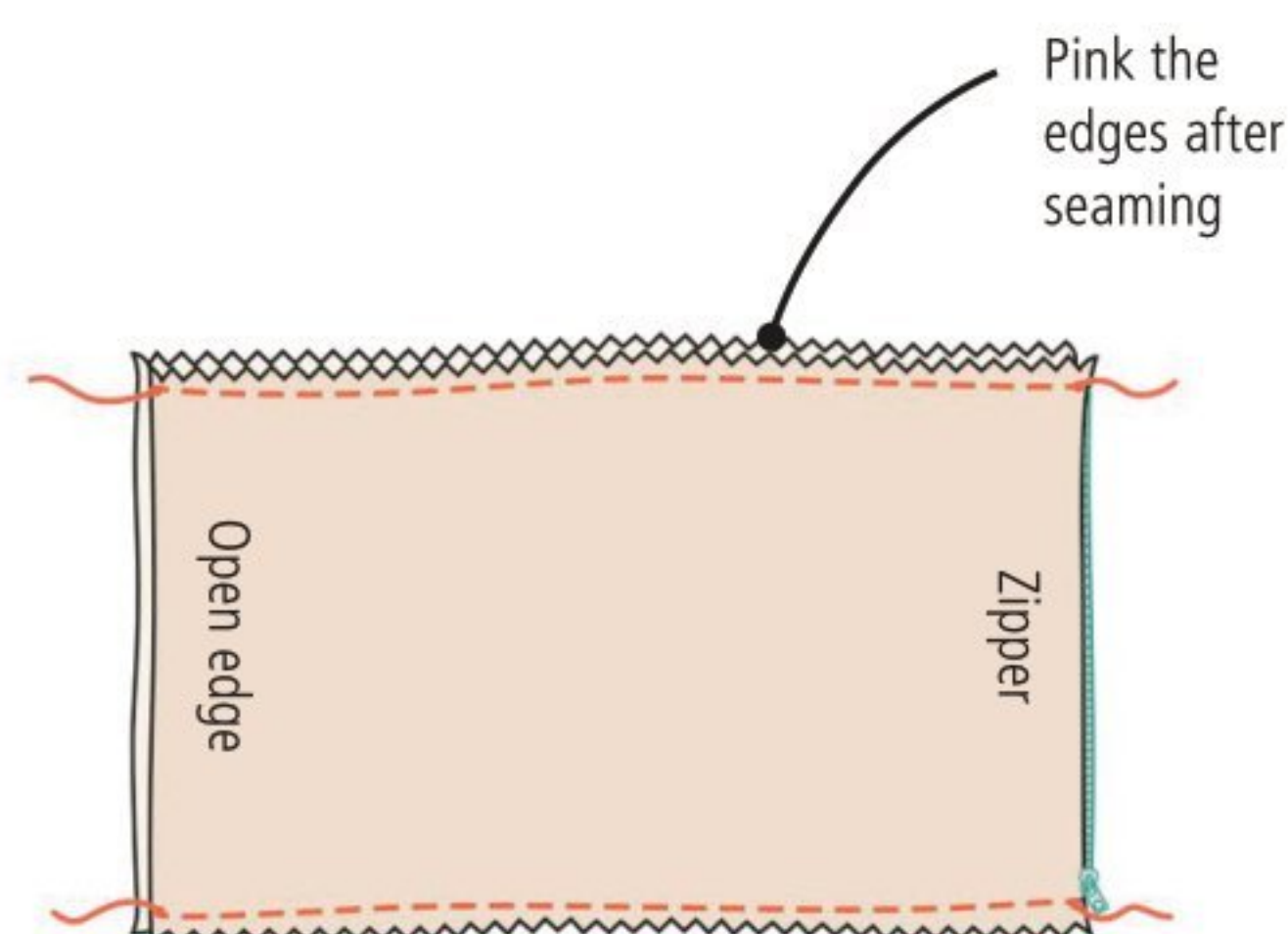


Figure 2 Make sure to open the zipper before seaming the side edges.

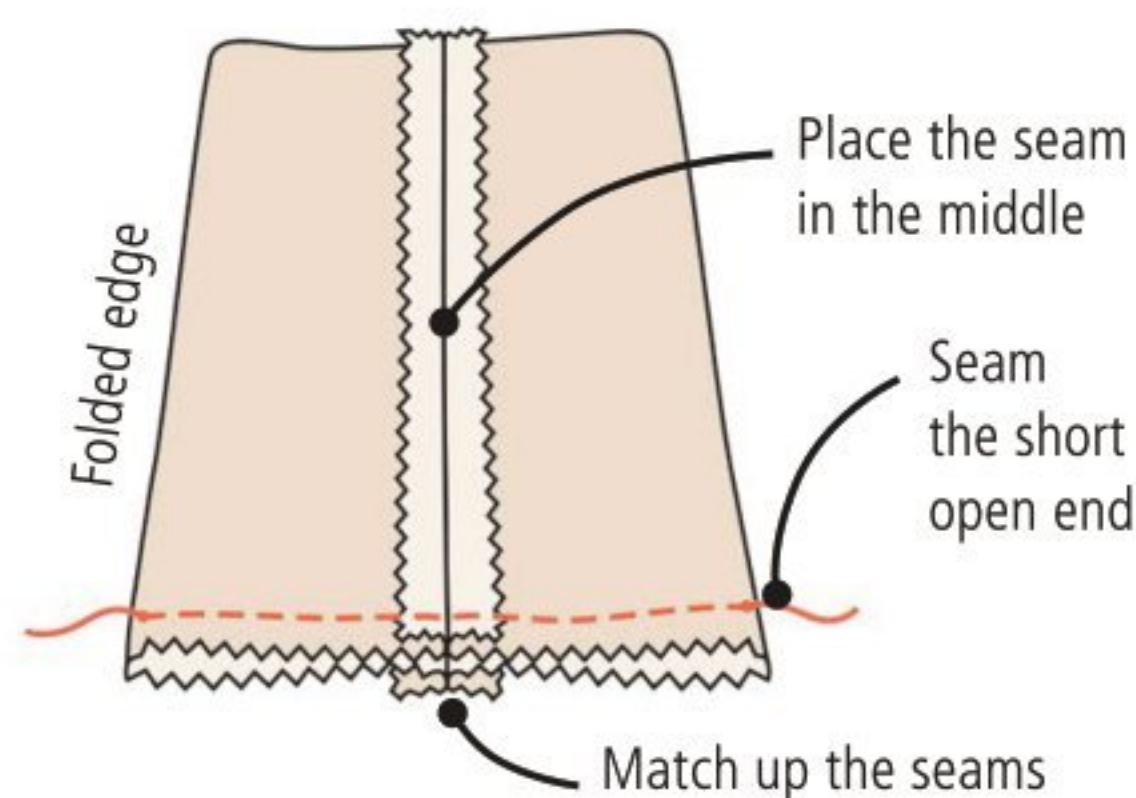


Figure 3 Fold the fabric so the side seams meet in the middle.

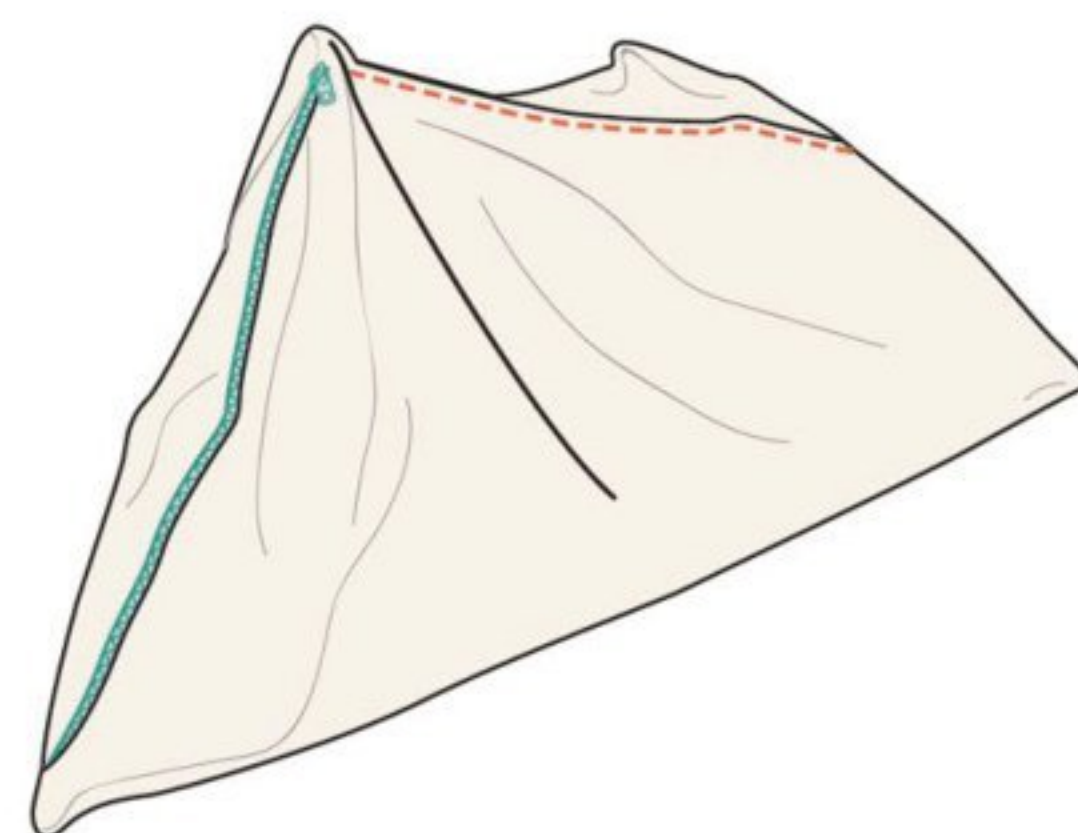


Figure 4 Turn the casing inside out, filling it with your chosen material before putting the casing inside the beanbag.

Essential information

Difficulty level

Moderate

Time to make

3 hours

Finished size

44 x 44 inches
(112 x 112cm)

Materials

Color A: 88 yards (81m)
of super bulky yarn, with
3 strands held together

Color B: 176 yards (161m)
of super bulky yarn, with
3 strands held together

Color C: 176 yards (161m)
of super bulky yarn, with
3 strands held together

Tools

Scissors

Gauge

2 stitches and 3.75 rows
equals 4 inches (10cm).

*This project was made with:
2 skeins of Premier Craft-Tee
Yarn in Dark Grey Shades,
88 yards (81m).*

*2 skeins of Premier Craft-Tee
Yarn in Light Blue Shades,
88 yards (81m).*

*1 skein of Premier Craft-Tee
Yarn in Dark Blue Shades,
88 yards (81m).*

Concentric squares rug

This project has you knitting in all directions. After making a central square in one color, you'll rotate the piece several times to add stitches in a different color.

How to make

Color A: Center square

- 1** Cast on 5 stitches with color A.
- 2** Arm knit 6 rows.
- 3** Bind off all the stitches.

Color B: Middle square

- 1** Pick up the stitches for Side 1 as follows: Turn the piece 90°. Using color B, pick up and arm knit 6 stitches along the edge of the color A square.
- 2** Arm knit 6 rows.
- 3** Bind off all the stitches.
- 4** Pick up the stitches for Side 2 as follows: Turn the piece 90°. Using color B, pick up and arm knit 8 stitches along the color B section just worked and along the edge of the color A square.

- 5** Arm knit 6 rows.

- 6** Bind off all the stitches.

- 7** Pick up the stitches for Side 3 as follows: Turn the piece 90°. Using color B, pick up and arm knit 8 stitches along the edge of the color B section and the color A square.

- 8** Arm knit 6 rows.

- 9** Bind off all the stitches.

- 10** Pick up the stitches for Side 4 as follows: Using color B, pick up and arm knit 18 stitches along the color B strip, the color A square, and the color B strip.

- 11** Arm knit 6 rows.

- 12** Bind off all the stitches.

The log cabin knitting technique builds on a central square, allowing you to add flourishes once you construct that center square.

Continued ➔





This project will give you ample opportunity to practice several arm knitting techniques, including changing colors.

Color C: Outer square

1 Pick up the stitches for Side 1 as follows: Turn the piece 90°. Using color C, pick up and arm knit 18 stitches along the edge of the color B square.

2 Arm knit 6 rows.

3 Bind off all the stitches.

4 Pick up the stitches for Side 2 as follows: Turn the piece 90°. Using color C, pick up and arm knit 6 stitches along the edge of the color C section and 18 stitches along the edge of the color B square.

5 Arm knit 6 rows.

6 Bind off all the stitches.

7 Pick up the stitches for Side 3 as follows: Turn the piece 90°. Using color C, pick up and arm knit 6 stitches along the edge of the color C section and 18 stitches along the edge of the color B square.

8 Pick up the stitches for Side 4 as follows. Using color C, pick up and arm knit 30 stitches along the color C strip, the color B square, and the color C strip.

9 Arm knit 6 rows.

10 Bind off all the stitches.

11 Weave in and trim all the ends.







tip

Orient all the side panels in the same direction so they'll stretch at the same rate and stay the same size once they're assembled.

Essential information

Difficulty level

Moderate

Time to make

1 hour

Finished size

14.5 x 14.5 x 14.5 inches
(37 x 37 x 37cm)

Materials

99 yards (91m) of
super bulky netted
acrylic-blend yarn

Cube-shaped footstool:

14 x 14 x 14 inches
(36 x 36 x 36cm)

Tools

Scissors

Gauge

1.75 stitches and 1.5 rows
equals 4 inches (10cm).

*This project was made with
6 balls of Premier Yarns
Couture Jazz in Slate,
16 yards (15m).*

Footstool cover

This cover can quickly add texture to humdrum furniture. Its large stitches serve as the attachments—hook a corner stitch under the corresponding footstool leg.

How to make

Top panel

1 Cast on 8 stitches.

2 Starting with a knit stitch, alternate 1 knit stitch and 1 purl stitch, working all the stitches across.

3 Repeat step 2 seven times (for a total of 8 rows).

4 Bind off all the stitches.

Side panels

Repeat the steps for the top panel four more times to make 4 side panels.

Assemble

1 Working on a flat surface, arrange the panels as shown in Figure 1, with the right sides facing up.

Be sure all the side panels face in the right direction (the bind-off edge is the top edge) to ensure the side seams remain the same size when stitched.

Attach the side panels to the top panel by using a mattress stitch.

2 Position the cover on the stool. Stitch the side seams along the stool's corners by using a mattress stitch.

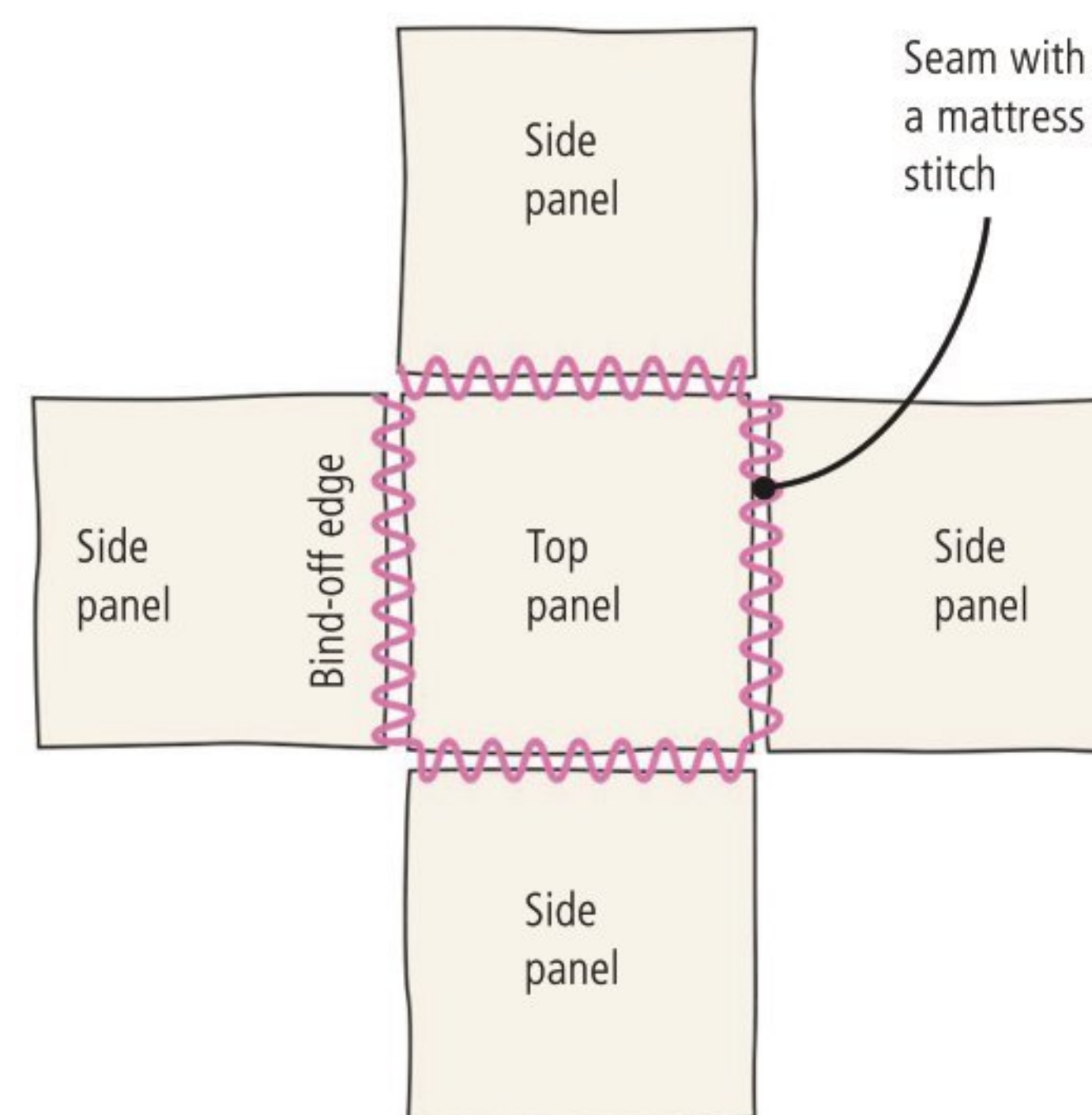


Figure 1 Arrange the panels with their right sides facing up, as shown here.



The footstool fabric should show through the stitches of this top panel more than the side panels.

Add a whimsical touch by working each panel in a different color—making this a perfect accent piece.

Essential information

Difficulty level
Moderate

Time to make
3 hours

Finished size
42 x 60 inches
(107 x 152cm)

Materials
165 yards (151m) of
jumbo netted
acrylic-blend yarn

Tools
Scissors

Gauge
2 stitches and 3.75 rows
equals 4 inches (10cm).

*This project was made with
10 skeins of Premier Yarns
Couture Jazz in Olive,
16.5 yards (15m).*

Textured throw

You'll alternate knit rows with a few purl rows to create a reversible throw that looks almost horizontally ribbed. Netted yarn lends more loft—and more warmth.

How to make

Throw

- 1** Cast on 24 stitches.
- 2** Arm knit 4 rows.
- 3** Purl 2 rows.
- 4** Repeat steps 2 and 3 five more times.
- 5** Arm knit 4 rows.
- 6** Bind off all the stitches.
- 7** Weave in and trim all the ends.

Probably the **hardest aspect** to this project is choosing which room or piece of furniture you'll accent with this throw.

Move it around your living space as needed—you'll find it can fit anywhere.



Alternating knit and purl stitches creates a throw that's not only beautiful and warm but also durable.

tip

Knit this throw in two different colors for a great color block scheme.





Essential information

Difficulty level

Moderate

Time to make

2½ hours

Finished size

36 x 84 inches
(91 x 213cm)

Materials

150 yards (137m) of
100% worsted weight
cotton yarn

Thread to match the
chosen yarn color

Solid-colored sheer curtain
to match the yarn color:
50 x 84 inches
(127 x 213cm)

Tools

Sewing needle

Straight pins

Scissors

Gauge

2 stitches and 2 rows
equals 4 inches (10cm).

*This project was made with
1 skein of Blue Sky Alpacas
Worsted Cotton in Bone,
150 yards (137m).*

Lacy curtain

Inspired by 1970s macramé, this airy curtain has a delicate pattern. Putting a solid-colored sheer curtain behind the knitting allows its lacy effect to stand out visually.

How to make

Curtain

- 1** Cast on 23 stitches loosely.
- 2** Arm knit for 4 rows.
- 3** Purl 1 row.
- 4** *Knit 2 stitches together, yarn over; repeat from * to the last stitch and then knit the last stitch.

(To perform a yarn over, place the working yarn behind the arm holding the stitches and then immediately bring the yarn up, over, and around to the front.

This wraps it partially around your wrist from back to front.

You can then simply continue working as described in these instructions.)

- 5** Arm knit 1 row.
- 6** Purl 1 row.
- 7** Repeat the previous 8 rows three more times for a total of 24 rows.
- 8** Bind off all the stitches.



The yarn over technique creates an extra loop on your arm and results in a deliberate hole in the knitting. That creates the larger stitches.

Assemble

Spread the cast-on end of the piece flat on your work surface. Put the sheer panel face down on the curtain, arranging it evenly and aligning the top and side edges of both curtains. Pin them together, and working with each cast-on stitch, use the needle and thread to tack the cast-on end to the curtain.

Contributors

Stacey Budge-Kamison

Stacey Budge-Kamison is a fiber artist with a hand-crafted yarn business (UrbanGypZ.com) that specializes in edgy yarns and fibers for knitters, crocheters, weavers, and handspinners—with a focus on sustainable fibers and unexpected colorways. Stacey's studio is located in Raleigh, North Carolina, where she lives with her husband, two cats, and two dogs.

Mari Chiba

Mari Chiba started knitting while serving in Armenia as a Peace Corps volunteer. During the long, cold winters, she'd knit herself a blanket to keep warm. This led her to start designing knitting patterns. Mari has had designs published in *Twist Collective*, *Knitscene*, *Interweave Knits*, *Knitty*, and many other publications. You can follow her adventures in knitting and designing on her blog at mariknits.com.

Jennifer Dickerson

Jennifer Dickerson is a freelance writer, knitting and crochet pattern designer, and all-around craft enthusiast. She authors the popular Fiber Flux blog (FiberFluxBlog.com), sharing patterns, articles, book and yarn reviews, and tutorials. Jennifer also teaches crochet and knitting techniques on her growing YouTube channel. Jennifer is the author of *Mini Flower Loom Crafts: 18 Super Simple Projects* and contributed designs to *American Gift Knitting* and *Knitting 2014 Day-to-Day Calendar*. She designs regularly for *I Like Crochet* magazine, and she was named a top blogger by Prime Publishing in 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015.

Haven Evans

Haven Evans lives in Pennsylvania and is a busy mother of three who works from home full time. She recently discovered that arm knitting is a fun and easy way to de-stress at the end of the day, and she has since pursued this hobby with enthusiasm.

Ashley Little

Ashley Little is a craft writer and editor by day and a serial crafter by night. Her blog TheFeistyRedhead.com explores knitting, crocheting, sewing, and crafting, and it includes her own original patterns and reviews. Ashley's also a regular contributing writer for *Craftsy* (craftsy.com), and she authored *Chunky Knits*.

Rugilė Mickevičiūtė

Rugilė Mickevičiūtė hails from Lithuania and has always been driven by the desire to create attractive things. She has found that her true calling is to craft items that make people's homes cozy and comfortable. She likes objects that are exclusive, unique, and authentic, and she wants her own designs to reflect this attitude. Rugilė loves soft shapes and materials, large spaces, and low furniture, so it's no surprise she makes chunky Scandinavian-style poufs, beanbags, and pillowcases in various colors, as showcased on her website puffchic.com. She sells her creations on Etsy at etsy.com/shop/Puffchic.

Emilie Odeile and Ken Chapin

Emilie Odeile and Ken Chapin are the team behind a business called Intreccio. This Italian word means to weave together, interlace, or intertwine, and it perfectly describes the work Emilie and Ken are doing at their design studio located at the base of one of Colorado's highest peaks. Emilie loves to knit, and Ken's pretty happy in the wood shop. They've combined her many years of designing unique knitwear for private and celebrity clients with his artistic vision and masterful use of tools to create a full collection of giant knitting needles, a growing selection of patterns, and a vibrant community of giant knitters. You can see more of their work at etsy.com/shop/Intreccio.

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And a big round of applause (and a few yummy treats and gentle caresses) for Rocky—that little pooch who turned into a supermodel when the camera pointed at him.





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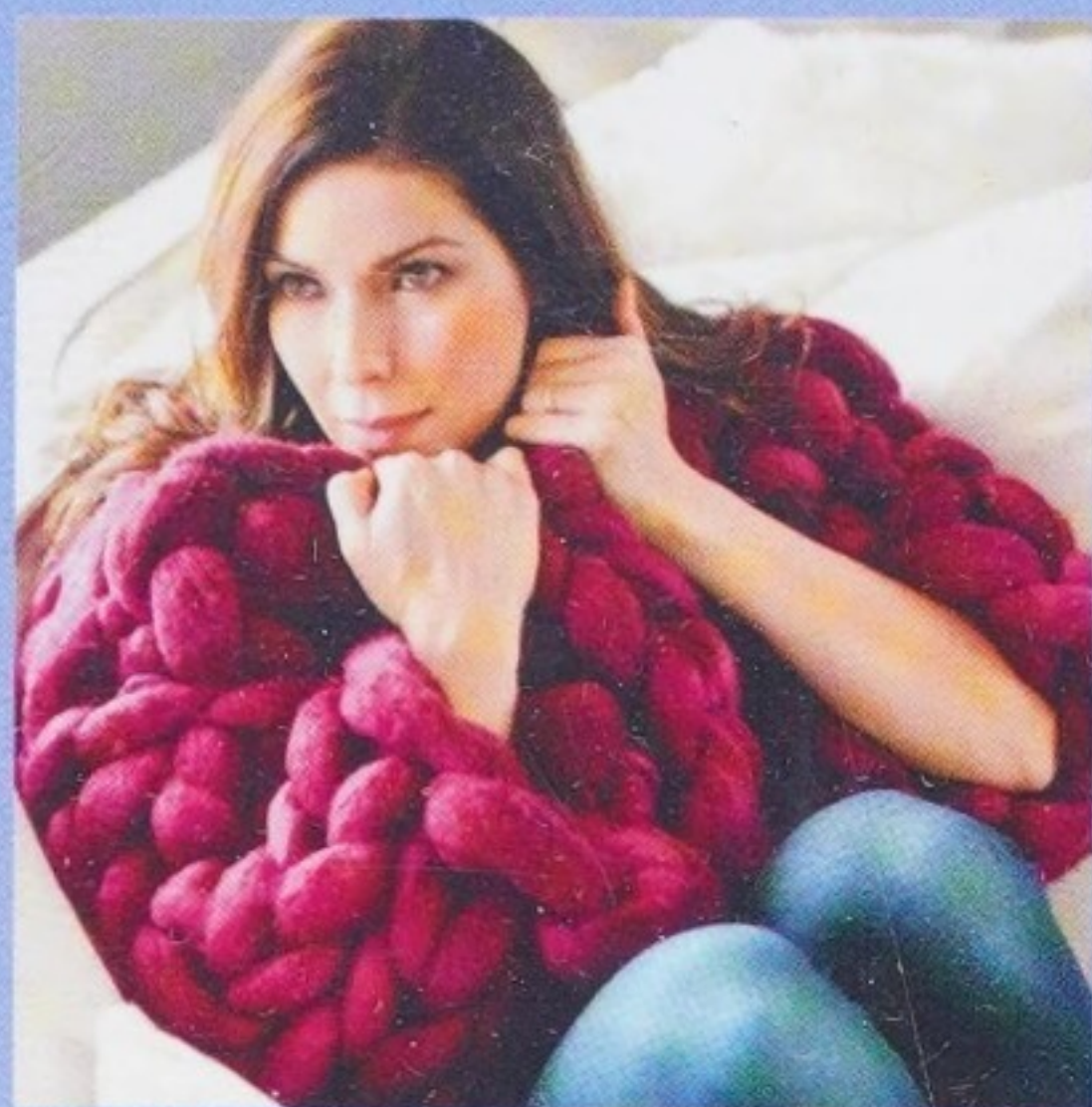
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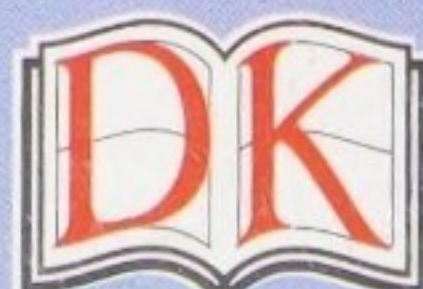
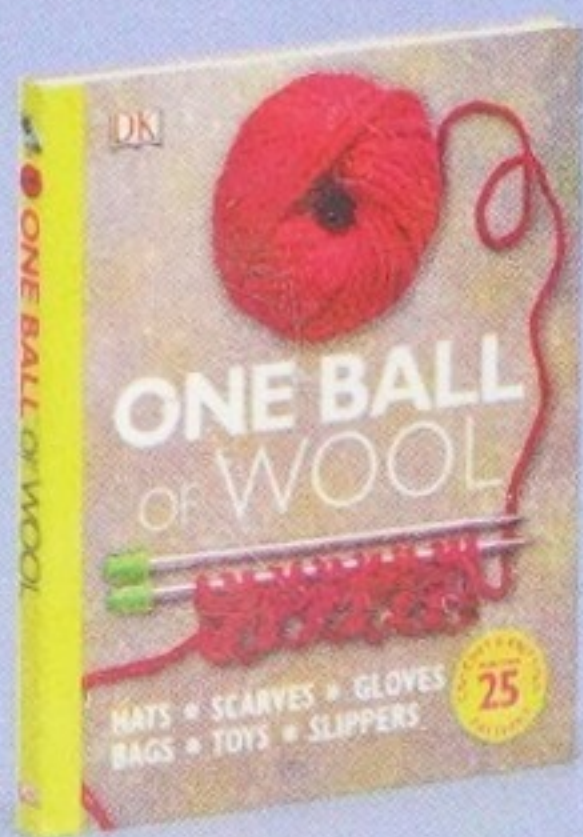
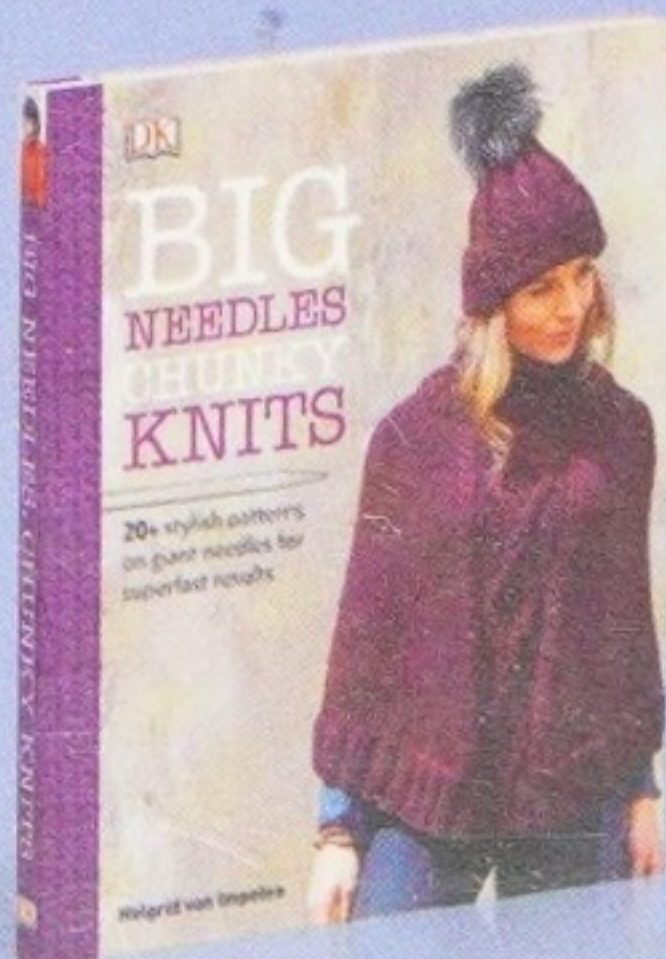
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